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FOLK-LORE FROM ELIZABETH CITY COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

BY A. M. BACON AND E. C. PARSONS.

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PREFACE.

Two decades or more ago Miss A. M. Bacon conducted a folk-lore society in Hampton Institute. Some of the material recorded was published in "The Southern Workman." Through the kindness of Miss Herron of the Institute the unpublished material was given to me to edit, and appears in the following collection. The most notable part of Miss Bacon's collection is, I think, the so-called "Irishman Stories." These noodle-tales have a widespread distribution in the South; and Miss Bacon was the first recorder, as far as I know, to recognize the place of the tales in the hospitable folk-lore of Negroes.¹ How hospitable Negro folk-lore is to new-comers is also evidenced in the following collection by the war-time tales or anecdotes of W. D. Elam of Virginia, and still more strikingly in Tale No. 68, in which appear Mutt and Jeff, most recent of folklorish or quasi-folklorish figures.

¹ See "Irishman Stories" (Southern Workman, 28 [1899]: 192-194).

A few noodle-*tales* and others I recorded from the Institute students in 1920. As Hampton Institute students are drawn from many parts of the country, these tales, as well as the tales recorded by Miss Bacon, are of varied provenience, — from Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, the Carolinas, etc. From North Carolina is contributed the English tale of "Dividing the Souls," told very much as I heard it told a few years ago near Greensborough. No. 28, "Rabbit seeks Meat," has a particular distribution in the Sea Islands and Georgia; and it is inferable, from the reference to Georgia at the conclusion of the tale, that the narrator was from Georgia. No. 18, "Dog and Dog-Head," has a like distribution; and from the name of the narrator, La Patten, it is probable that he came from the Sea Islands, once the home of French settlers.

During my visit to Hampton I also collected tales from three schools, — from Whittier School, which is under the administration of Hampton Institute, and which draws its pupils largely from the two nearest towns, Phoebus and Hampton; from the Public or Union Street School of Hampton; and from the Orphan Home maintained by Mr. and Mrs. Weaver. With the exception of a few tales contributed by inmates of the Orphan's Home, these tales from the school-children may be considered part of the county folk-lore.

The tales collected in 1920 are given with the name and home of informant or writer. The tales taken from the Institute records are in some cases undated, and in some cases unlocalized.

Riddles 1 to 123 were recorded from the school-children in 1920; riddles 124 to 137 were recorded by Miss Bacon in 1894 (124-135 from J. W. Bedenbaugh, a student from Bradley, N.C.; and 136-137 from Maun of Georgia).

E. C. P.

TALES.

I. INCRIMINATING THE OTHER FELLOW.¹

(Version a.)

Once upon a time Brer Rabbit and Brer Wolf went to steal a cow from a man. They caught the cow and killed it, and took off the hide. Then Brer Rabbit told Brer Wolf that "whoever owns this cow is coming, and the way you must do is to get into the hide and wrap up." So when the man came, Brer Rabbit said, "The way to do to find out who stole the cow is to put the hide on the fire." Brer Wolf cried, "It's not me, it's Brer Rabbit!" Brer Rabbit replies, "Knock him in the mouth! He is a grand rascal! He'll spoil a gentleman's credit!"

¹ Recorded by A. M. Bacon.

(Version b.¹)

There was once a man, an' he had an overseer an' a head man. An' when the overseer was supposed to be watchin', he would go out to see his girl and leave the head man to watch. An' every mornin' one sheep was missing, until one day the man said, "Every day one of the sheep are gone." So that night, instid the overseer goin' to see the girl, he watched and seed what the head man did; an' when the head man picked up the sheep, the overseer said, "Ha, ha! You're the one that been taking away the sheep! Now you take that sheep and carry it to the man." The head man reached down after the sheep, and picked it up and let it fall, and said, "I can't carry it. I betchyer you can't pick that sheep up." And while the overseer was pickin' the sheep up, the head man reached and got his gun, and said, "Now you kyarry that sheep to the man." An' he made him kyarry the sheep to the man, an' said, "Here's the man that was takin' away your sheep." So that's the way that the man lost his job.

2. PLAYING GODFATHER.

(Version a.²)

There was oncet a boy, an' he was called to name the baby. First he named it Topped-Off. The second time he was called he named it Half-Gone. The third time he was called he named it All-Gone. The fourth time he said it was Peanut-Butter.

(Version b.³)

Once upon a time B'o' Rabbit and B'o' Fox lived together. They used to put their dinner to cooking before they went to work in the morning, so that it would be done when they reached home in the evening. All went on very well until one day they decided to have black pease for dinner. Now, B'o' Rabbit was very fond of black pease and he was very greedy, so he begun to think of a plan to eat all the pease by himself. At last he thought of a scheme. When he had been working a while, B'o' Fox was startled by hearing B'o' Rabbit cry out, "Who's that calling me?" B'o' Fox said, "What's matter, B'o' Rabbit?" B'o' Rabbit replied, "Some one's calling me, so I am gwine see what dey wants, be back in a minute." When he came back, B'o' Fox said, "Who was it?" — "My aunt sent for me to come and name her baby."

¹ Informant, Gladys Bright of Hampton. Compare South Carolina (JAFL 32 : 366-367), Benga (Nassau, 85-95), Bushman (Honey, 24). Comparative, MAFLS 13 : 70 (note 1).

² Informant, Marian Gee of Phœbus. Compare South Carolina (MAFLS 16 : 5-10, Nos. 2, 3; JAFL 34 : 2-4), North Carolina (JAFL 30 : 192-193, 215-216), Pennsylvania (JAFL 30 : 215-216). Comparative, MAFLS 13 : 1, 2 (note 1).

³ Written by Minnetta in 1902.

—"Well, what did yer name it?"—"Just-Begun."—"What a funny name!" said B'o' Fox, but B'o' Rabbit said nothing. B'o' Rabbit worked about ten minutes, then hollered out, "I wish you all would stop calling me."—"What's matter now, B'o' Rabbit?" asked B'o' Fox. "Somebody is a-calling me agin, and I am dead tired of it too, but I guess I'll have to go and see what dey wants." This time he staid a little longer than the first time. When he came back, B'o' Fox said, "Who was it calling you this time?" B'o' Rabbit said, "My cousin just come home from the North; and dem folks at home dey done tell her that I was fust-rate at naming babies, so nothing could do but she must call me to name hern."—"Well, what did yer name it?"—"Half-Gone," replied B'o' Rabbit. Well, B'o' Rabbit worked for half an hour, then hollered out, "I declare, I won't go a step. No, indeed! not if I knows myself." B'o' Fox said, "What an airth de matter wid you, B'o' Rabbit?"—"Somebody is calling me agin, but I ain't a-gwine."—"You had better go and see what dey wants," said B'o' Fox. "Well, long as you think I ought to go, I guess I have to go," said B'o' Rabbit. At the end of an hour B'o' Rabbit returned in high spirits, greeting B'o' Fox with, "Another baby to name."—"Well, I never, sence I been born! Another baby to name! Well, what did you name it?"—"All-Gone," replied B'o' Rabbit. "That's a mighty queer name," said B'o' Fox; but B'o' Rabbit held his peace, and worked on in silence for the remainder of the day. When they reached home that evening, they were surprised to find the pease all gone, and they had to go to bed supperless.

(*Version c.¹*)

One day Bro' 'Possum gathered a large kittle of pease and put them in a kittle to cook. In the mean time he ask' Sister Weasel to come over and help him work in the garden and have dinner with him. Sister Weasel came; and, as she couldn't leave her three little babies home, she brought them along, too.

Bro' 'Possum had told Sister Weasel abou' the pease he had on cooking; and the whole time she was working, she was thinking of how she could get into the house to eat them befo' Bro' 'Possum did. At last the thought came to her mind that she would tell Bro' 'Possum to let her go into the house to name one of her babies. When she thought the pease were done, she said, "Bro' 'Possum, got to go in de house to name one ob my babies. Won't be gone long."—"All right, Sis' Weasel! Don't stay long!"

Sister Weasel went into the house, and found the pease nice and done. So she ate the top off and ran back to work. "What did you name your baby, Sister Weasel?" asked Bro' 'Possum. "Top-Off,"

¹ Written by Gladys Stewart of Phœbus.

answered Sister Weasel, working all the time. In a few minutes Sister Weasel felt hungry again; and she said to Bro' 'Possum, "Bro' 'Possum, I got go in and name my second baby." — "All right, Sister Weasel! but don't stay long!" said Bro' 'Possum.

Sister Weasel went in this time and ate half of the pease. This time, when she came out, Bro' 'Possum asked, "Well, Sister Weasel, what did you name this one?" — "Half-Gone," said Sister Weasel, and away she went chopping in the garden. Pretty soon she felt hungry again; for, once she had tasted those pease, she couldn't stop until she had eaten them. So she said, "Bro' 'Possum, let me go in now and name my last baby, and I won't bother you any more." Bro' 'Possum gave his consent. This time Sister Weasel cleaned the kettle, and came running out agin. "What did you name this baby, Sister Weasel?" asked Bro' 'Possum. "All-Gone," said Sister Weasel, and went hard at her work. Pretty soon Bro' 'Possum noticed that Sister Weasel was getting sluggish on the job, and he thought that she was hungry. So he said, "Come, Sister Weasel, let's eat the kittle of pease, and we will feel more like working." — "All right!" said Sister Weasel. When Bro' 'Possum went into the house and found that the pease had gone, he became very angry, and told Sister Weasel that she had eaten all his pease. "Now, Bro' 'Possum, I haven't eaten your pease," said Sister Weasel. "You have eaten my pease, Sister Weasel, and I am going to eat you for my dinner." When Sister Weasel heard this, she became frightened, for well she knew that Bro' 'Possum would eat her up with little trouble. But what was she to do? Bro' 'Possum's garden, which he loved dearly, was a long ways from the house, but one with a keen eye could see all over the garden. Sister Weasel knew that Bro' 'Possum could not do this, on account of his poor sight. So she said, "O Bro' 'Possum! just look how the Wren children are stealing your crop!" At this Bro' 'Possum forgot all about his pease, an' ran down to his garden. In the mean time Sister Weasel grabbed her babies and ran as fast as she could to the woods and hid. After she got herself hidden, she laughed to herself of how she had fooled Bro' 'Possum.

3. PLAYING GODFATHER: TELL-TALE GREASE.¹

Once the bear and the rabbit had some butter. There was a good deal of it. They were out working together in the field. After a little while the rabbit looked up toward the house, and said, "Buh Bear, I hear some people calling me up to the house." The bear said, "Go and see who they are." Buh Rabbit went to the house and ate some of the butter. Then he came back and worked for a little time. After a while he said, "Buh Bear, I hear those people calling me again," and he went to the house a second time. This he did three or four times,

¹ Recorded by A. M. Bacon.

until he had eaten all the butter. After a time Buh Bear said, "It is time to stop work and go to the house and get something to eat." When they got to the house, the bear found that the butter was all gone. Then he said, "Buh Rabbit, you ate that butter when you came to the house. Le's build a fire and lie down before it! and the one that ate the butter it will run out of his mouth." So they lay down before the fire and went to sleep. Soon Buh Rabbit awoke, and found that the butter had run out of his mouth on to a piece of bark under his head. He slipped the bark under the bear's head, where the bear found it when he awoke.

4. TELL-TALE GREASE.¹

Two men went to buy some cheese. They put it out in field. One said he wanted some water. He went back and ate the cheese. They went to sleep. The one who wakes up with grease on his face will be the one who took the cheese.

The greedy one wakes up, and grease is on his face; but he takes and rubs it on the face of the other.

5. TAR BABY: MOCK PLEA.

(*Version a.*²)

Once Broder Rabbit and Broder Fox decided to be friends. So they were to go out at night to steal from Broder 'Possum, but it seemed dat Broder Rabbit would try and play off on Broder Fox. Well, they went on; Broder Rabbit pretended to be Broder 'Possum's best friend. Well, Broder 'Possum said to Broder Rabbit one day, "Look here, Broder Rabbit! does you know dat somebody is stealing all my milk and corn?" Broder Rabbit he laughed, and said, "Well, Broder 'Possum, that's too bad! Us ought to catch that person, and what we do for him will be a plenty." Broder 'Possum thought Broder Rabbit was de man, so he fixed for him. So one night Broder 'Possum set up a tar man near his corn-crib. Up comes Broder Fox and Rabbit with their sacks. Broder Fox he spy the man, he stops; but Mr. Rabbit he walks on; and when he saw the man, he was frightened very much, but he took courage and went on. He walked up to the tar man,

¹ Informant, Marian Gee of Phœbus. Compare South Carolina (JAFL 34 : 2-4; MAFLS 16 : 8-14, Nos. 3-6), Bahamas (MAFLS 13 : 1-2).

² Written by Charles E. Flagg of Montgomery, Ala., in 1899. For "Tar Baby" compare South Carolina (JAFL 34 : 4; MAFLS 16 : 25-29, Nos. 13-15); Porto Rico (JAFL 34 : 164-165); comparative, Folk-Lore, 30 : 227-234. For "Mock Plea" compare South Carolina (JAFL 32 : 394; 34 : 5; MAFLS 16 : 12-14 [Nos. 6, 7], 26-29 [Nos. 14, 15]); Florida (JAFL 30 : 225); Mpongwe (Nassau, 22-23); Bushman (Honey, 77-78, 82-83); Hottentot (Schultze, 477); Philippines (Cole, 177-178; MAFLS 12 : 326 ff.); Biloxi (JAFL 6 : 49); Cherokee (BAE 19 : 272-273, 278-279); comparative, MAFLS 13 : 15 (note 4), Dähnhardt, 4 : 43-45.

and railed out, "Oh, yes! I cotch you here at Broder 'Possum's crib. You de fellow been stealing corn." The man didn't speak. Then Broder Rabbit walked up to strike him. He slapped the man, and his hand stuck. "Let my hand go! I got anoder one here." He then pound away with the other hand, and that stuck. "You better let go my hands! I got two foots here." Then he pound away again, and his foot stuck. He kicked again, and his other foot stuck. "You better let my foots go! I got a head here, I'll butt you." Then he gave a hard butt, and there he was hard and fast for Broder 'Possum the next morning.

Well, the next morning Broder 'Possum came down and found Broder Rabbit stuck fast to the tar man. "O Broder Rabbit! I thought I would catch you. You are the one who has been stealing from me." — "Oh, no, Broder 'Possum! I was just watching to see if I could catch anybody for you, and, come to behold, I cotched this man. I walked up and spoke, and he wouldn't speak, so I struck him; and every time I struck him, my hands and feet would stick, so I kept him until this morning for you." — "Well, that's all right, Broder Rabbit. I put this man here just to catch you. So now I am going to punish you." — "Lord! Broder 'Possum, what is you gwine to do to me?" — "I am going to throw you in the river." — "Oh, please throw me in right now, Broder 'Possum! I likes dat very much." — "No, I won't throw you there, I'll put you in the fire." — "Oh, I don't care! I want to go in the fire, I am cold. Please put me in now, Broder 'Possum!" — "No, I won't do that, I'll tie you and throw you in the brier-patch." — "O Broder 'Possum! please don't throw me in the patch, those briers will stick me to death." — "Well, I am going to throw you in, anyway." Then he bound Broder Rabbit and threw him into the patch, but the rabbit was just where he wanted to be. After he was loosed, he laughed at Broder 'Possum, and went on his way with Broder Fox. "Well," said Broder Fox, "I guess, when you gwine steal again, you will be a little more shy."

(*Version b.¹*)

A man once had a nice spring, but sometimes it was muddy. Some one told him that it was a rabbit that did it, and to put a tar baby down there and it would scare him away. He did so; and when the rabbit saw it, she hailed, "Who are you?" She said, "If you don't tell me your name, I will slap your head off." So saying, she tried it, and her hand was stuck. She cried, "You had better turn me loose, I have another hand," and she let him have it. That one was stuck. She kept on this way until hands, feet, tail, and head were stuck in the tar. Now what? The man came, and was satisfied with his scheme.

¹ Written in 1899.

So he said to her, "I have you, Miss, and I'll fix you. I will fling you in this spring and drown you." — "Please put me in there!" said she. "No," said he, "I won't put you in there, because you want to go in there." There was a pile of bushes on fire, and he said, "I am going to fling you in that fire." She said, "All right! I like fire." — "No, no, Miss! I sha'n't please you so much." So he found a cluster of briars, and said that he had a great mind to fling her in there. She cried and yelled, begged him not to put her in such a place. He thought he had found the right place to punish her. So he let her go; and when she landed there, she cried out to him, "This is my home; my mammy and daddy were *born* in here."

(Version c.¹)

Mrs. Hare had a fine lot of ducks, and every now and then she would miss one or two of them. Mrs. Hare became troubled about her ducks; and she tried very hard to catch the thief, but was unable to do so. After a while she thought of a way to catch the thief. She moved the ducks, and put in their place a big pot of tar. That night Mr. Fox came, as he had done before, and stuck his paw down after a duck, but something held his paw; and he said in a loud voice, "Turn me loose, turn me loose! I say, you better turn me loose! I have another one back here, and I'll let you have it presently." At last he threw his other paw into the tar, and that was held fast. He did not give up the fight, and continued to fight until all of his paws were made fast. Then he said, "Look here! You better turn me loose! I got a great big club back here; and if you don't turn me loose, I'll let you have it, sure." (Unfinished.)

6. TAR BABY: THE LORD DINES.²

Once there was a farmer who owned a cabbage-patch. Every morning Mr. Rabbit would go an' eat the farmer's cabbage. One morning the farmer made a tar baby and put it out there beside the cabbage-patch. The next morning, when Mr. Rabbit came down to the cabbage-patch, he didn't know what to make of the tar baby. So he said, "Good-morning!" but the tar baby didn't say a word. So Mr. Rabbit said, "Good-morning! If you don't speak to me this time, I will hit you." So Mr. Rabbit said, "Good-morning!" The tar baby didn't say a word. Mr. Rabbit hit him with his paw, and it stuck fast in the tar. Mr. Rabbit said, "Turn me aloose!" And then Mr. Rabbit kicked the tar baby, and his feet stuck fast in the tar. The next morning, when the farmer came down to the cabbage-patch, the farmer said, "I have you now!" So he carried Mr. Rabbit home and threw him in the rye-field. Mr. Rabbit ran home.

¹ Written by J. H. Thomas in 1899.

² Written by Martha James.

Not long after that Mr. Rabbit put out signs that the Lord was coming. So one day the Lord came to see the farmer. The Lord sat down and had a nice dinner. After the dinner was over, the Lord went out doors and pulled off his clothes, and said, "I told you I was going to eat at your house some day."

7.¹ PLAYING GODFATHER: TAR BABY: MOCK PLEA.

A fox once hired a rabbit to help him work on his farm, and the fox's wife had to cook for them. They began work early in the morning, while Mrs. Fox was cooking pease, of which the rabbit was very fond. He would work to get to the end of the row before Mr. Fox, and answer as if some one had called him. Mr. Fox would say, "Who is that?" The rabbit would say, "Your wife called me, I don't know what she wants." Mr. Fox would say, "Go see what she wants." The rabbit would go to the house and say, "Mrs. Fox, Mr. Fox says give me a plate of pease, please." — "All right!" said Mrs. Fox, "tell him there are only two more left." When Mr. Rabbit began work, he would run to the end of the row and back, and answer again. Mr. Fox would say, "Who is that?" The rabbit would say, "Your wife called me again. I don't know what she wants." — "Go and see what she wants," said the fox. Then Mr. Rabbit would go, and say to Mrs. Fox, "Mr. Fox says give me another plate of pease." — "Please tell him there's only one more left." Mr. Rabbit ate the pease and went back the third time. At noon Mr. Fox said, "Come, Mr. Rabbit! we'll go and get our dinner." The rabbit said, "Oh, no, Mr. Fox! I don't care for any dinner." — "I don't want anybody to work for me without eating," said Mr. Fox. Mr. Rabbit went, but would not keep up with Mr. Fox. Mrs. Fox met Mr. Fox in the yard, and asked where he was going, and also told him there was no dinner because he had sent Mr. Rabbit to eat all the pease.

Mr. Fox said, "Never mind, never mind! I'll catch you. Go in the dairy and bring me that butter." The rabbit went in and stuck his front paw in the butter, but it stuck fast. He said, "Never mind, never mind! I have another paw here." He stuck it in, and it stuck fast. "Never mind, never mind! I still have another one here." He stuck that one in, and it stuck fast. "Never mind, never mind! got one more here," and that stuck fast. "Never mind, never mind! I got a mouth here." He put his mouth in, and it stuck fast.

Then Mr. Fox came upon him, and said, "Now I have you! I am going to kill you; I am going to throw you in a pile of briers." The rabbit said, "Please don't throw me in the briers! You may burn me, you may roast me, but please don't throw me in the briers! You will tear my face and eyes to pieces." Then Mr. Fox took him, and threw

¹ Written by Nellie Virginia Hudgins.

him in the briers. The rabbit laughed, "Ha, ha, ha! you threw me to my home in bamboo-briers. I was bred and born in a brier-patch."

8. TAKE MY PLACE.

(*Version a.*¹)

Oncet upon a time a man had a daughter, an' he had a very large cabbage-patch. He used to leave his daughter home while he go to work. An' every day when he went to work, the rabbit would come and steal his cabbage. One day he staid home. He caught the rabbit and put him in a bag, and hung him up a tree to starve. The rabbit heard a fox comin'. He tol' the fox to come up there and untie the bag, and, if he'd get into the bag, he'd hear the singin' in the clouds. The fox got in the bag. The rabbit tied him up in there, and left the fox hollerin', "Me no hear no singin' in the clouds!" As the rabbit was runnin' across the cabbage-patch, the man saw him, and threw the hatchet at him and cut his tail off. An' rabbits haven't had any tails since.

(*Version b.*²)

Bear plants potatoes and beans, which are stolen. Bear says, "Who's dat been medlin' in my field and been eatin' my peas and taters? Oh, well! I'll get him yet! I knows what I's gwine to do. I'll set for dat ar gent'man, and I's sure to git him." . . . Rabbit visits Bear, and tells him that Fox is the thief. Bear sets a snare, which Rabbit himself is caught in. Fox comes up, and Rabbit begins to sing, and says, "O Mr. Fox! I see all kinds of beautiful things, now I am swingin' in this pleasant swing. O Mr. Fox! I see a beautiful city ober yonder." — "Bro' Rabbit, may I swing some and see somet'in' too?" — "Not yet, Bro' Fox; you can swing some by and by." — "Oh, let me swing some now, Bro' Rabbit!" — "All right, Bro' Fox! you may swing. Now, Bro' Fox, you come here and git me out ob dis swing, and let me put you in, so you can see some ob de beautiful t'ings I's been seein'." After Fox is in the snare, Rabbit says, "Bro' Fox, when you are in, let me know, so I can push you and make you swing high." — "All right, Bro' Rabbit! I's all right. Now push me! . . . I see no heaben and city dat you told me 'bout." Bear comes up. Rabbit says, "Mr. Bear, Mr. Bear, I told you dat Fox been eatin' your taters and peas. Now you see for yourself." — "Well, sir, Mr. Fox, what's you doin' in dis trap?" — "Mr. Rabbit got me in here. He was in here firs'." — "I don't believe it. I care for no 'scuse. Guess I's 'bout as well kill yer now."

¹ Informant, Lillian Courtney of Hampton. Compare South Carolina (JAFL 34 : 14-15; MAFLS 16 : 37-38, No. 23; 41-43, Nos. 28, 29), Alabama (JAFL 32 : 400-401), Porto Rico (JAFL 34 : 170-172), Liberia (JAFL 32 : 414-415). Comparative, MAFLS 13 : 82 (notes 2, 6); JAFL 30 : 229.

² Abstract from tale written by W. T. White in 1903.

(Version c.¹)

One day Brer Rabbit stole some cabbage from Brer Wolf. Brer Wolf caught Brer Rabbit and put him into a hollow log, and put a block of wood into each end to prevent Brer Rabbit from getting out. He said that he was going to starve Brer Rabbit to death. After Brer Rabbit had been in there a half a day, Brer Wolf passed by and hailed him. "Hello, Brer Rabbit!" said he. Brer Rabbit answered, "Hello!" The next day Brer Wolf passed again. Brer Rabbit spoke so low that he could scarcely be heard. Brer Wolf said to himself, "He is 'most dead." About noon Brer Wolf came back again, and hailed, but received no answer. Brer Wolf got an axe and pounded upon the log, but he got no answer. He then called and called, but no answer. So he said, "Brer Rabbit is dead." Brer Wolf took the block out of the end of the log, laughed to himself, and walked away. After he was gone, Brer Rabbit laughed, too. He came out of the log greatly tickled at Brer Wolf's foolishness. In a few days he met Brer Wolf. Brer Wolf said, "Hello, Brer Rabbit! I thought you were dead." Then he caught Brer Rabbit again, and decided to box him up and throw him into the river. Brer Wolf called Brer Bear, Brer Elephant, and Brer Fox to see the fun. After Brer Rabbit was put into the box, it was found that there were no nails to nail the cover down with. So they put the cover on, and all went away after nails.

As soon as they were gone, Brer Rabbit came out. He found a stone, and put it in the box and fitted the cover on, just as before. When Brer Wolf came back without looking into the box, he and his friends began to nail down the cover of the box.

When they were ready, they said good-by to Brer Rabbit, but he would not speak. They laughed, and said he was mad. Then they flung the box into the river, and it sank.

In two or three days Brer Rabbit came back with cheese and butter and milk and gold and silver. He gave them all some, and thanked them for throwing him into the river. He told them that he had had a good time. Then Brer Wolf asked them to put him into a box and throw him into the river. They did it, but have not seen him since.

9. FALSE MESSAGE: TAKE MY PLACE.²

Once a rabbit went up to a man's house and told his little daughter that her father said let him go into the garden, but turn him out a long time before dinner. At noontime the little girl's father came

¹ Informant, E. E. Edwards. Recorded by A. M. Bacon.

² Recorded by A. M. Bacon. Compare South Carolina (JAFL 34 : 14-16; MAFLS 16: 40-43, Nos. 27-29), Georgia (JAFL 32 : 402). Comparative, MAFLS 13 : 82 (notes 2, 6); also Jicarilla Apache (PaAM 8 : 233), Wichita (Dorsey, Pub. Carnegie Institution [1909], 54).

home and went into the garden. He saw that something had been eating his peas, so he asked the little girl who had been eating his peas. The little girl told him about the rabbit. The father told the little girl that the next time the rabbit came, she should keep him there until he returned. The little girl did as she was bidden. When the man came home and found the rabbit, he caught him, and tied him with a rope. The rabbit got a great many little strings and put them on a sitck, so as to make a little fiddle. Late in the afternoon an opossum came along, and saw the rabbit tied and playing on the fiddle. Brer Opossum said, "Brer Rabbit, what is you doing tied dere?" The rabbit said, "Don't you see my fiddle? I am going to play for dese people, and dey gib' me five dollars a hour. Don't you wish you were in my place?" The opossum said, "Brer Rabbit, if you let me take your place, I will show you where you can get any kind of food you want, and I will give you half the money." At first the rabbit refused, so as to make the opossum think that he meant what he said; but finally he let the opossum untie him and take his place. Night came, but the opossum found nobody to play the fiddle for. After a time a man came in with a kettle of hot water and poured over him. That was all the pay he got. At last the opossum was unloosed and went away sadder and wiser.

IO. IN THE BAG.¹

Once upon a time there lived a fox whom the people called a chicken-thief. One morning early he took a bag and went to the village to get a chicken. After getting the chicken, he went to a farmer's house, where he asked if he might leave his bag. Before leaving, he told the woman not to open the bag, then he trotted to the village. As soon as the fox was out of sight, she opened the bag, and out flew the chicken. The farmer's wife put a stone in the bag, and fixed it like the fox had it. The fox came back, thanked her, and ran home. He got the water ready, and then went to put his chicken in. Time he opened the bag, the stone rolled in and scalded the fox to death.

II. WATCHER TRICKED: FOX FLIES.²

Where there **was** a turkey-buzzard fly. Once there was a fox and a buzzard who were good friends. They used to go hunting together. One day they took their guns and went a-hunting. They came to a tree where there was a holler in the tree. Ol' fox decided there was somethin' up the holler, a rabbit or somethin'. So he got some dry wood and made a fire in the holler, and smoked it. He smoked and smoked it, and nothin' came down. But he was sure there was some-

¹ Written by Marian Gee of Phœbus. Compare South Carolina (JAFL 34 : 21).

² Informant, Josephine Johnson of Windsor, Va. For bibliography of "Watcher Tricked" see JAFL 30 : 178 (note 1).

thin' up there. So he tol' the turkey-buzzard to stay and watch the holler, and see that nothin' came down, while he went back home to get an axe to cut the tree down. The buzzard promised that he'd do so. The fox went home to get an axe, and the buzzard set down by the tree to watch the holler. While the fox had been talkin' to the buzzard, the rabbit had been thinkin' of some way to come down the holler. So after de fox left, Rabbit said to de buzzard, "Mr. Buzzard, they tell me you have silver eyes and a gold bill." An' the buzzard said, "Well, so I have." The rabbit said, "Look up yonder an' let me see them!" An' the buzzard was very glad to show his gold bill and silver eyes. So he poked his head in the holler and looked up at the rabbit. The rabbit raked up a handful of trash and threw in his eyes. The buzzard went off to get some water to wash his eyes; and while he was gone, the rabbit came down. The buzzard came back and sat down by de holler and waited for the fox. Fox came and cut down the tree, and didn' see the rabbit run or anything. So he ask, "Mr. Buzzard, where is dat rabbit?" And de buzzard said, "He was up dere de las' time I see him." So de fox decided to split de holler open. He split it, and still didn' see any rabbit; an' he ask again, "Mr. Buzzard, where is de rabbit?" Buzzard said, "He was up dere de las' time I saw him." Den de fox got angry wid de buzzard, and ran at him with his axe to kill him. And de buzzard ran and ran so fast, dat he split his dress wide open, and he took de two sides of his dress and commence to fly, used dem for wings. So you see de buzzard's been flyin' ever since.

Buzzard was angry wid de fox, and wanted to get even with him: so one day he came flyin' over de fox, singin', —

"Way down yonder, whey I come f'om,
Dey t'row away meat,
Dey t'row away bread.
Everyt'ing good dey t'row away."

And de fox say, "What's that, Mr. Buzzard? Sing dat again." And de buzzard sang it: —

"Way down yonder, whey I come f'om,
Dey t'row away meat,
Dey t'row away bread.
Everyt'ing good dey t'row away."

Fox asked de buzzard, "Mr. Buzzard, could you take me down there?" Buzzard say, "Yes, jump up on my back." Fox got on de buzzard back. Buzzard went flyin' 'round. He went way up in de air. When he'd gotten high enough to kill the fox, he turned from one side to the other. Every time he turned, de fox would run to de oder side, and

de buzzard saw he couldn' turn him off in dat way. So he turned over upside down, and Fox fell to de ground and was killed.¹

12. LION BROOKS NO RIVAL.²

Lion was supposed to be the head of all the beast in that place. He got so lazy ev'ry day, he had an animal come in ev'ry day so he could eat it. Ev'y day animal went in. So finally it came the rabbit's turn to go in. He was one of the wisest animals of that time. He was supposed to be there at twelve o'clock. He came hoppin' along the road, stoppin' everywhere, lookin' at everything, until it threw him off time. Wonders, whey he goin', what could he do to keep the lion from gettin' so angry with him. So finally he came across a well. The thought came to him as he looked into the well, he saw his shader, he had a scheme to fool the lion. He had been told by the other animals that any way he could get rid of the lion, they would pay him, give him praise of being the wisest animal of the forest. He entered the lion's room pretendin' he had been runnin', doin' all he could to get there on time. The lion asked him why he was so late. The rabbit began to tell him the story why he was so late. So he tol' the lion, if he didn' believe what he had tol' him, to follow him, and he would show him. So the lion went with the rabbit to the well. The rabbit tol' the lion to get up on the curb of the well and look down into the well, and he would see what had delayed him. So he did. When he looked into the water, he saw another face, not knowing that it was himself. He frowned, he grit his teeth, and the other lion did the same thing. The lion on top, thinking that he was master of all the beasts of the forest, jumped into the well, and that was the last of the lion. And the rabbit got the praise of being the wisest beast of the forest.

13. THE UGLIEST ANIMAL.²

There was a gathering, a bunch of animals. The bear was the head of this gang. They had a feast. The bear got thirsty; and he said, "The ugliest animal in the house could get me some water." The animals looked at one another. Finally they looked 'round and saw a monkey. The monkey say, "You all need not look at me, because I'm not the ugliest animal in the house."

14. PICKING A QUARREL.³

Onct there was two foxes. They were always friends. They never say an unkind word to each other. So one day Fox say, "Let us have

¹ L. Frobenius, *Volksmärchen der Kabylen*, 3 : 6.

² Informant, William Franklin of Montgomery County, Alabama.

³ Informant, Clarence Thomas of Atlantic City, N.J.

a quarrel!" So the other one say, "All right!" The other fox say, "How was we to start the fuss?" The firs' fox say, "That was easy to start." So the first fox got two stones; and he say, "These are my stones." The second fox say, "All right! Then you shall have them." The first fox say, "You can't do like that; you mus' say something back. You never start a quarrel." The first fox say, "This whole fores' belong to me." The second fox say, "How come I to be in here?" An' he said, "I can easy get out." The firs' fox said, "No, you won't get out. We have always been friends, an' anything I have will always be yours, and anything you have will always be mine." So they gave up the silly game, and never tried it again.

15. BUZZARD MAKES TERRAPIN HIS RIDING-HORSE.

(*Version a.¹*)

Once there was a buzzard and a terrapin who went to see the king's daughter. The buzzard said to the terrapin, "Where are you going?" The terrapin asked him what that was to him. The buzzard he said, "I just asked you." Then he said he was going to see the king's daughter. The buzzard asked the terrapin to just let him ride on his back, and he would go with him. The terrapin let him ride as far as the fence, then told him that when he came to the gate he must get down. The buzzard said, "All right!" but when they came to the gate, he said, "Just carry me as far as the door, and I will get down." But when they got to the door, the buzzard popped his spur into the terrapin, and rode into the house on the terrapin's back. Then the girl said she would have the buzzard, because he was so smart.

(*Version b.²*)

The rabbit and the fox were going to see a girl, and the fox was getting the best of the rabbit. So B'o Rabbit, when he went to see the girl, would talk against B'o Fox to her. When the fox came, the girl would tell him what the rabbit had said. The fox got mad and went to see the rabbit, and asked what he was talking about him for. The rabbit denied it, and said, "If I could see that girl, I would face her in that story, and I would go over there now if I wasn't sick." The fox was so anxious to have the rabbit and the girl together, he said, "Get on my back, and I will carry you over there." The rabbit had told the girl that his papa had the fox for his riding-horse the last twelve months, and he expect to have him the next twelve. The rabbit made out he was so sick until he couldn't go; but the fox told him to get on his back and go, anyway. Then the rabbit decided to go, but

¹ Recorded by A. M. Bacon. Compare South Carolina (JAFL 34 : 6; MAFLS 16 : 53-55, Nos. 38-40). Comparative, MAFLS 13 : 30 (note 1).

² Informant, Ananias Tyson. Recorded by A. M. Bacon.

said he could not ride without a bridle, saddle, switch, and spur. The fox said, "Get them, and we will go, for some one is telling a story." They went on until they got near the girl's house, and the fox told the rabbit to get down; but the rabbit made out he was so sick, and asked the fox to carry him to the corner of the house. When they got there, the rabbit gave the fox a cut with the switch and a kick with the spur, and made him jump up on the girl's steps, and said, "Look here, girl! what I told you? Didn't I say I had Brother Fox for my riding-horse?" The fox wanted to fight, and jumped out and pulled off the bridle and saddle; but the rabbit ran off. When the fox met the rabbit, he wanted to kill him; but the rabbit said to the fox, "I am not the rabbit did you that way. He had little eyes, but I got big eyes."

(*Version c.¹*)

The bear and rabbit agreed to go to a party one night, and the bear called at the rabbit's house. The rabbit said that she was sick and could not go. The bear urged her to go, for the girls would be so disappointed if they did not go. The bear had to argue considerable to get her to consent, and then on condition that the bear carry her part of the way, for she could not walk. The bear said that he would. So she dressed, put on her spurs, took her reins and whip in her hand. Says the bear, "What are you going to do with these?" — "I want the girls to think I rode horse-back." The bear thought no more about it, but started off. After getting near the house, the bear asked the rabbit to get down off his back, he did not want the ladies to see her sitting upon his back. She said that she was so sick, that, if she had to walk, it would kill her. So the bear pitied her and carried her to the yard, and ordered her to get down or he would break her neck. Meanwhile, during the ride, she had slipped the lines about the bear's neck: so she drew them tight, drove the spurs into his side, and gave him a crack over the head with the whip. She made him trot around the house a few times, calling the ladies out to see the sight. Finally she dismounted, tied the bear to the post, and walked in the dance-hall and said, "Ladies, I told you all that Mr. Bear was my riding-horse."

16. WHY FROG LIVES IN THE WATER.²

Once there was a frog and a terrapin who were going to see the same girl. The girl said that she would have the one that could sing the most beautiful song. Then the frog began to sing, "Cluck u-lu-lu, cluck u-lu-lu!" The terrapin was frightened because the frog sang such a beautiful song, and he tried to sing too; but he could only say, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem!" The girl said that the frog's song was the

¹ Written in 1899.

² Recorded by A. M. Bacon.

best. Then the terrapin said, "Come, let us go down to the creek and get a drink! and we will try again." The frog agreed, and they started for the creek. The frog got there first, and sat down on the bank to wait; and while he waited, he began to sing. Soon the terrapin came up softly behind the frog and pushed him into the water, and spoiled his song. Then the girl said she would have the terrapin. The frog grieved so, that he never came out on the land to live any more.

17. LITTLE PIG AND WOLF.

(*Version a.¹*)

Once there lived a little pig in a very close little room. A wolf would come by every day and try to fool the little pig out, so he could eat him. One morning the wolf called, but the pig did not answer him. The wolf was very sure the little pig was in there: so he said, "I know where a plenty of grapes. You better come and go with me." When the wolf was gone, the little pig put out for the grape-vine. By that time the wolf came to the pig's home and called him again. He did not receive any answer. Then he put out to the grape-tree too. When the pig saw the wolf, he hid in some moss on the tree. The wolf saw the pig before he got there; and when he got there, he called the pig, but he did not get any answer. By that time the wolf started to climb the tree. When he got to the little pig, the little pig ran out and jumped and ran away, and got home before the wolf caught him. By the time the little pig jumped in his door and shut it, the wolf had his head in the door, and it caught his head. He said to the pig, "Let me go! I will not hurt you." The pig opened the do' a little, and the wolf jumped in. The pig caught him by the leg, but he was afeard: so he said, "Yonder come de dogs." — "Let me in! Let me in! Hide me in the box! The dogs will catch me!" said the wolf. The pig did so, but he got angry and began to put holes in the box. "What are you doing?" said the wolf. "Putting holes so you can get air," said the pig. "Oh, indeed!" said the wolf. When the pig got the holes in the box, he put on some water. When it was very hot, he said, "Don't you want some cool water poured on yo' to mek yo' feel good?" — "Yes," said the wolf. So the pig po'ed hot water on him and killed him.

(*Version b.²*)

A long time ago Brer Wolf and Brer Rabbit were good friends, but for some reason or other they became deadly enemies. Brer Wolf decided to do Brer Rabbit harm. Brer Rabbit staid in his house most of the time, so Brer Wolf couldn't get at him. Wolf, however, thought

¹ Informant, Joe Seawright. Recorded by A. M. Bacon. Compare South Carolina (JAFL 34 : 17-18), North Carolina (JAFL 30 : 175-176).

² Written by W. P. Narcom in 1903.

of a way to get him out by stratagem. He knew that Brer Rabbit liked fruit: so he went to Brer Rabbit's door one night, and told him he knew where some fine large apples grew, and asked him if he would like to go and get some. Brer Rabbit very politely accepted the invitation, and agreed to go for the apples next morning at five o'clock. Brer Wolf trotted off home to dream of the sweet revenge he was going to have on Brer Rabbit, but Brer Rabbit was on to his tricks. Promptly at three o'clock he went after his apples, and was back quite a while before five o'clock. As the clocks struck five, Brer Wolf tapped on the door. "Are you ready to go for dem apples, Brer Rabbit?" says 'e. Brer Rabbit says, "La', Brer Wolf, my watch said five o'clock long 'go, and I thought you wasn't comin', so Ise done been." Brer Wolf was so mad he couldn't stand still; but he did not give up his hope for revenge, so he told Brer Rabbit 'bout some peaches which were farther away from Brer Rabbit's house than the apples. Brer Rabbit gladly consented to go, this time at four o'clock; but when Brer Wolf came after him next morning, he had been fooled again, and Brer Rabbit was inside enjoying his peaches. This time Brer Wolf was so mad dat his har turned gray, but he wouldn't give up. He decided to send Brer Rabbit on a fool's errand: so he told him about some fine pears. They grew on a distant hill very far away. There wa'n't no pears dere at all. Brer Wolf jest want to get Brer Rabbit out of his house one more time. They agreed to go at three o'clock this time. Brer Rabbit started out ahead of time, as usual; but Brer Wolf, who had caught on to him, started out early too. He first caught sight of Brer Rabbit sittin' on de hill resting, den he kinder laughed up his sleeve when he thought how tired he must be from walking so far, an' how mad he must be for bein' fooled. After waiting a while, so's to catch his wind, he started out as if to speak to Brer Rabbit.

Brer Rabbit knew there was trouble in the wind: so, as soon as he saw Brer Wolf comin', he made a break for home. Right down de hill he went, and Brer Wolf started right behind him. It was a race for life; and Brer Rabbit did his level best, while old Brer Wolf was equal to the occasion.

They ran through cornfields, through woods and across fields, 'til they got in sight of Brer Rabbit's house. The sight of the house gave Brer Rabbit new courage and strength; so that he made a final break, and got in the house and locked the door just as Brer Wolf rushed 'ginst it.

Brer Wolf tried all of his force to open the door; and as he failed, he decided to come down the chimney. Brer Rabbit had no intention of letting any one come down the chimney after him: so he just set a big kettle of boiling water right under the chimney; and when Brer Wolf dropped down, he went smack into the kettle. Den Brer Rabbit slapped on de cover, and he had Brer Wolf just where he wanted him.

Brer Wolf make all kinds of whining entreaties for Brer Rabbit to let him out, but it wasn't no better for him. Brer Rabbit made a fine stew of Brer Wolf, and eat apple-sauce and peaches along with him. After this he went after fruit whenever he got ready, without fear of being caught by Brer Wolf.

18. DOG AND DOG-HEAD.¹

The rabbit and the frog were partners, and they were living on the same plantation. They had raised some rice, and were going to London with it: so they sacked it up and got ready to start. The rabbit could travel faster than the frog, so he would stop once in a while to wait for the frog. "Ber Frog, can' you come no faster den dat?" said Ber Rabbit. "You des' go on, Ber Rabbit, I be dar," said the frog. "Yes, I know you will when you eat up all dar rice," said Ber Rabbit. The rabbit thought that the frog was eating the rice because the frog panted under his throat, and the rabbit thought he was chewing. "Well," said the rabbit, "I ax yer eat some mine, too," said the rabbit. "You shall not eat all your rice and be fat, and me be poor." So the rabbit began to eat, and ate till he ate all his rice mostly. They both wanted to buy a hound, so they could catch a deer. When they go to London, the frog had enough to buy him a hound, but the rabbit had just enough to buy him a dog's head. On the way back home the frog's dog jumped a deer and caught it. The frog could not keep up with the dog, but the rabbit he kept up and did the hallowing. When the dog caught the deer, B'o' Rabbit ran the frog's dog away, and put his dog-head there.

When the frog got there, Ber Rabbit said, "Ber Frog, I thought your dog was some 'count, but dar dar dog-head of mine he can fly. Des' look how he stick to dar deer! Your old dog scared to go dar. Hold him dog-head! Don' let him go!"—"Now, Ber Frog, you go over dar whar you see dar fire at and get some fire, and I will give you half." They saw the moon rising, and they thought it was a fire. Ber Frog went hopping just as fast as he could. Soon as he thought he was far enough so that the rabbit could not see him, he hopped behind a large tree and soon came back. "Ber Rabbit, dat man would not let me hab no fire." Den Ber Rabbit look in de wes' and saw a star. "Well, yonder is a man; go ober dar."

Away Ber Frog went, but soon came back again. "Ber Rabbit, dat man say you come. I walk too slow." Away Ber Rabbit went, leaving Ber Frog to watch till he come. Ber Rabbit soon came again. "Ber Frog, dar man lib too far dat a way."—"Well, Ber Rabbit, des' go right over dar to dat man, he don' live very far. You can go dar."—"Ber Frog, you oughter go, for somebody mout take dat

¹ Informant, La Patten. Recorded by A. M. Bacon. Compare South Carolina (MAFLS 16 : 1-5).

deer away from you." — "No, dey won't, neider! Um a man, — a good man, too," said Ber Frog. So Ber Rabbit went again.

While Ber Rabbit was gone, Ber Frog hid the deer so Ber Rabbit could not see him. Then he went jumping up and scream an' holler, an' call, "Ber Rabbit, Ber Rabbit!" Ber Rabbit came running. "Wha' de matter? Wha' de matter?" — "A grade [great] big red-eyed man don' come an' took dar deer 'way from me." — "Look a yere, Ber Frog, yo' don' say his eyes was red?" — "Yes, his eyes was red," Ber Frog he say. "Well, I don' keer," say Ber Rabbit. "Any ol' fool ought know a old dead dog-head can catch no deer. Yo' ol' dog caught him. I des' make fool out you." — "Ber Rabbit, I knowed dat you was lying. I don' carried dat deer home. I knowed my dog caught dat deer. I ain' gwine gib you a bit, neider. Now you go 'long to your house. I go to mine." And away they both went.

19. KEEPING PACE.

(*Version a.*¹)

Once there was a rabbit and a snail who were courting the same girl. The girl finally said she would marry the one that could win in a race and reach her house soonest. Brer Snail lived in a little house just in front of Brer Rabbit's house. Early one morning Brer Rabbit came along, and said, "Hello, Brer Snail! Are you ready?" — "Not yet, Brer Rabbit," said Brer Snail. I must eat my breakfast first, and then I must fasten up my house." But he only wanted to keep Brer Rabbit until he could get on his tail. At last he told Brer Rabbit he was ready, and Brer Rabbit started off on a run. The distance they had to go was five miles. At the end of the first mile Brer Rabbit called out, "Hello, Brer Snail!" expecting Brer Snail to answer far away; but Brer Snail answered close at his heels. Then Brer Rabbit ran all the faster. At the end of the next mile he called again. Brer Snail answered in a low voice, as though he were far behind. Brer Rabbit called him at the end of each mile, and each time Brer Snail made his voice fainter. At the end of the five miles Brer Rabbit called for the last time. Brer Snail's voice was so low that it could scarcely be heard. So Brer Rabbit thought he would take a walk, and come back in time to go into the house before Brer Snail got there; but, as he turned, Brer Snail jumped off his tail, and went into the house and jumped into the girl's lap. By and by Brer Rabbit came in. He sat down by the side of the girl. But the first voice he heard was Brer Snail's, saying, "Hello, Brer Rabbit! Ise here, you see!"

¹ Informant, Henry Rhetta. Recorded by A. M. Bacon. Compare Bahamas (JAFL 30 : 229), South Carolina (Christensen, 58-61), North Carolina (JAFL 30 : 189), Pennsylvania (JAFL 30 : 209), Chickasaw (JAFL 26 : 292). See also Dähnhardt, *Natur-sagen*, 4 : 72 *et seq.*

(Version b.¹)

A terrapin and fox had a dispute about a girl as to which should marry her. Bro' Fox told Bro' Terrapin that the one who got to the girl's house and sit down by her side first should be the one to marry her. Bro' Terrapin agreed to this, and they both started off for the goal. In the mean time Bro' Terrapin grabbed hold of Bro' Fox's tail; and when Bro' Fox reached the girl's house and was sitting down by her side, Bro' Terrapin advised him not to intrude on his good nature: consequently Bro' Terrapin won the girl.

(Version c.²)

Once upon a time a buzzard met a wren. "Mr. Wren, dahs one thin' I kin do that you can't," said Mr. Buzzard. "What is it, Mr. Buzzard?" said the wren. "I kin fly so high, you kin scarcely tell me from de cloud." — "All right, Mr. Buzzard! S'pose we hab a race!" So the buzzard and the wren started. When the buzzard spread his wings, the wren lightly sat in the hollow of his back and went on up with him. "Wha' air ye, Mr. Wren?" said the buzzard when he had gone a little distance. "Ise right heah, Mr. Buzzard." Higher and higher went Mr. Buzzard. "I yi, Mr. Wren!" — "I yi, Mr. Buzzard, Ise right heah above ye, go a li'l' higher, Mr. Buzzard." — "No," said Mr. Buzzard, "we'll go down to the earth." . . . — "Well, Mr. Wren, you're allus above me. Why is't you neber fly higher den de fence ef you kin fly so high?" — "Well, you see, Mr. Buzzard, ef I tell you dat, you will be jus' as wise I be."

20. RELAY RACE.³

Once on a time there was a prize put up on a race between the rabbit and the turtle. It was said that the one who won should have a beautiful young girl for his wife. The turtle, knowing that the rabbit could make better speed than he could, went around the day before the race and got all his friends to help him. He was careful to get turtles about his own size, so that they could easily be mistaken for himself. The turtle posted them at different places along the road, and told them to be ready. When the rabbit came along at each point where there was a turtle, the turtle would cry out, "Hello, Brer Rabbit!" Then the rabbit would run all the faster. When Brer Rabbit reached the end of his journey, there was a turtle to cry out, "Hello, Brer Rabbit! You see I have won the race."

¹ Written by W. N. Brown in 1899.

² Written by Lucy C. Barrow of Phœbus.

³ Informant, Cornelius Carr. Recorded by A. M. Bacon. Compare Bulu (JAFL 29 : 277), Benga (Nassau, 95-98), Philippines (Cole, 89; MAFLS 12 : 428-429), Cherokee (BAE 19 : 270-271), Jicarilla Apache (PaAM 8 : 237), South Carolina (JAFL 32 : 394; MAFLS 16 : 79, No. 70), Florida (JAFL 30 : 225-226). Comparative, MAFLS 13 : 102 (note 1), JAFL 32 : 390 (note 9), MAFLS 16 : 79 (note 1).

21. "I ONCE HAD A BROTHER."¹

One day Brer Fox was hungry. As he wandered about the wood, he saw a squirrel upon the branch of a tall tree. "Hello, Brer Squirrel!" he said. "Hello, Brer Fox!" replied the squirrel. Then said Brer Fox, "I once had a brother who could jump from limb to limb." — "So can I," replied Brer Squirrel. "Let me see you!" said the fox. So Brer Squirrel jumped from limb to limb. "Brer Squirrel, I have a brother that can jump from tree to tree." — "I can, too." So Brer Squirrel jumped from tree to tree. "Brer Squirrel, I had a brother who could jump from the top of a tall tree right into my arms." — "I can, too," said Brer Squirrel, and he did. Brer Fox ate him up.

Brer Rabbit was lying in his bed near by, and saw all that was done. "Brer Fox," said he, "you are a mighty smart man, but I had a brother who could do something you cannot do." — "What was it?" said Brer Fox. "My brother could let anybody tie a large rock around his neck, and jump off this bridge into the water, and swim out." — "So can I," said the fox. Then Brer Rabbit fixed the rock and the string, and Brer Fox jumped, but he has not been heard of since.

22. TROUBLE.

(*Version a.*²)

The turkey and the rabbit were once going through an old field, and the rabbit asked the turkey what made his eyes so red. Brer Turkey told him it was trouble. Then Brer Rabbit asked him what trouble was. Brer Turkey said, "Come with me into the field, and I will show you trouble." Brer Turkey made believe he was after water, but he was only setting the field a-fire in different places. By and by Brer Rabbit heard the fire begin to roar. "Brer Turkey! Brer Turkey!" he cried, "how are you going to get out of this field?" Brer Turkey said he was going to fly out. "Take me with you, Brer Turkey!" said the rabbit. But Brer Turkey said he could hardly get himself out. Brer Rabbit ran through the fire, and that is how he lost his tail. The fire caught it and burned it off. And Brer Rabbit has never had a tail since.

(*Version b.*³)

One day Brer Rabbit was complaining, in the presence of Brer Fox, of the many troubles he saw every day. Brer Fox said to Brer Rabbit, "Brer Rabbit, you are all the time talking about trouble! trouble!! trouble!!! I certainly would like to see trouble one time." — "Well," said Brer Rabbit, "I'll tell you where to go; and if you do just like I

¹ Recorded by A. M. Bacon. Published in *Southern Workman*, 28 : 113.

² Informant, Ella Anderson. Recorded by A. M. Bacon. Compare South Carolina (MAFLS 16 : 59-60, No. 48).

³ Written by J. H. Thomas in 1899.

tell you, you will be able to see it." — "All right!" said Brer Fox, "I'll be there, sure." — "You go away down the road and lie down in that hay-field and go to sleep; and when trouble comes by, I will call you." — "All right, Brer Rabbit! I'll be there." Brer Fox went and laid down in the centre of the hay-field and went to sleep; and as soon as he had gone to sleep, Brer Rabbit made a large ring around Brer Fox. When the ring was about five feet high, Brer Rabbit set the hay on fire, and then cried out, "Brer Fox! O Brer Fox, Brer Fox!" About this time Brer Fox awoke, and, finding himself surrounded with the flames, he soon thought that he saw trouble, and cried out, "Trouble! Trouble! Trouble!"

23. THE ESCAPE.

(Version a.¹)

Once a girl was picking peas in a pea-patch, and a rabbit came along. Brer Rabbit went to eating peas. He found them so good, that he kept eating and singing, too.

"Picking peas,
Land on my knees.
Heard old woman call
Right over there."

By this time the girl stopped and listened to the rabbit. As soon as he had finished his song, she said, "Sing that song again," and the rabbit sang again.

"Picking peas,
Land on my knees.
Heard old woman call
Right over you."

While he was singing, she caught him and carried him to the house, and told her father and mother to listen to Brer Rabbit sing. The mother said, "Put him on the floor." Then Brer Rabbit sang,—

"Picking peas,
Land on my knees.
Heard old woman call
Right over you."

When he had finished, they said, "Sing that song again." Brer Rabbit say, "Put me on the bed, and I will." So the little girl put him on the bed, and he sang the same song again. Then the father and mother said, "Sing that song again." Brer Rabbit say, "Put me in the window, and I will." So they put him in the window; and he sang,—

¹ Informant, Sarah Demmings. Recorded by A. M. Bacon. Compare Cherokee (BAE 19 : 274, 279). Comparative, MAFLS 13 : 135-137.

"Picking peas, picking peas,
Land on my knees.
Heard old woman call
Right over you."

And with that he jumped out of the window and ran away into the woods, and they never saw Brer Rabbit again.

24. THE PASSWORD.¹

Once a 'possum and a wolf planned to go to a king's palace. The wolf went to the house to eat some rice. When he got to the rice-house, he said to the door, "Glue up!" and the door got tighter and tighter, but did not open. Finally the king caught him. Then the wolf begged him to let him go, and he would never come there again as long as he lived. So the king let him go.

Then the wolf went back home; and when he got there, he found the 'possum. "Hello, fellow!" he said. "Where you been?" The 'possum said he had been to his girl's house.

Then the wolf told him he had been to the king's house, and that he had had some rice to eat. The 'possum wanted to know where it was. Then the wolf told him about the door, and that when he got to it, he must say, "Buckle loo!" and the door would open. Then the 'possum went into the house and did as the wolf said, and the door flew open. Then he ate all the rice he wanted, and, as he came out, said to the door, "Glue up, glue up!" and the door got tighter and tighter. Before the 'possum could get out of the house, the king came, and said, "Who is this in my house?" The 'possum said, "It is me, King." And he asked the king to let him out, but the king burnt him up.

25. IN THE BEE-TREE.²

Brer Buzzard was going to kill Brer Rabbit. One day Brer Buzzard met Brer Rabbit in the road. Brer Rabbit had two jugs of syrup. Brer Buzzard said, "If you don't give me one of those jugs, I will kill you." He gave one of them to Brer Buzzard. Then Brer Buzzard said, "You will have to give me both jugs." Brer Rabbit did so. "Now I have both jugs," said Brer Buzzard, "and I am going to kill you, anyhow." Brer Rabbit said, "Brer Buzzard, please let me off, and I will carry you to a bee-tree." Brer Buzzard said, "All right!" They went on; and when they got to the tree, Brer Rabbit went up first and ate honey until he saw the bees and came down. Then Brer Buzzard went up. He was so greedy, that the bees stung him on the head. It

¹ Recorded by A. M. Bacon. Compare South Carolina (JAFL 34 : 13; MAFLS 16 : 36-37, Nos. 22, 23). Comparative, Folklore, 29 : 206-218.

² Recorded by A. M. Bacon. Compare South Carolina (MAFLS 16 : 35-36, No. 21), Alabama (JAFL 32 : 400).

swelled in the hollow so that he could not get it out. Then Brer Buzzard said to Brer Rabbit, "Run for the doctor, and ask him what I shall do!" Brer Rabbit ran around the tree, and said, "Two good wrings and one good snatch." But that wouldn't do. Brer Rabbit ran around the tree again, and said, "Take the hatchet and chop it out." Brer Buzzard said, "Come on, and get it out for me!" Brer Rabbit went up there and chopped around, and then cut his head off. Then Brer Rabbit got a piece of mud and put it on his neck, and said, "Now flutter, now flutter, if you can!"

26. PLAYING DEAD TWICE IN THE ROAD.

(Version a.¹)

Once a rabbit and wolf went out one day to catch some fish. The wolf caught all the fish, and the rabbit didn't catch any. So the rabbit said to himself, "I am going home to my wife." Then he said to the wolf, "Brer Wolf, you have caught all the fish, and I have not caught any; and to-morrow morning your wife will be eating fish, and mine will be qu'rrling." — "I don't care," said Brer Wolf. "Please give me some fish for my wife!" — "I'll not, Brer Rabbit." Then Brer Rabbit said to himself, "Never mind! I will go and lie in the road where Brer Wolf has got to come along." Brer Rabbit went and laid in the middle of the road. The wolf came along with his basket of fish. The old rabbit pretended to be dead. Brer Wolf kicked him over, and said, "Ha! here is an old dead rabbit," and passed on. The rabbit went under the hill and got in the road again, and lay in the road as if he was dead. The old wolf came on and kicked him over, and said, "Ha! here is another dead rabbit," and passed on. Brer Rabbit went around him and got into the road again. When Brer Wolf came along to this dead rabbit, he set his basket of fish down, and went back to get the first rabbit; and then the rabbit got his basket of fish.

(Version b.²)

A rabbit once said to a fox, "Let us go fishing!" — "All right!" said the fox. The fox took the basket and went in the boat; while the rabbit sat upon the hill and played the violin, which she said would make the fish bite. When she saw that the fox had his basket full of fish, she ran down the path some distance, feigning to be dead. When the fox came along and saw her, he wondered, but passed on. After the fox had passed some way, the rabbit jumped up and ran through the bushes, heading the fox, and lay down in the road as before. And the rabbit did this way the third time; and when the fox found the

¹ Recorded by A. M. Bacon. Compare South Carolina (JAFL 34 : 11-12). Comparative, Folklore, 28 : 408-414.

² Written in 1899.

third dead rabbit, he said that he would go back and count them. He put his fish down by this last dead rabbit, and went back to count; but when he returned, he had found no dead rabbits and his fish were gone; for, when he turned his back, the rabbit got up and took the basket of fish away.

(*Version c.*¹)

Near St. Louis there lived a bear who loved to go a-fishing. Once he fished all day in the Mississippi River. A cunning little hare thought of a trick to play Bear to rob him of his nice string of fish. He ran around in front of the bear, and lay down across his path as if he was dead. The bear kicked him, and, seeing he was stiff, jumped over him. The hare got up and ran around the bear, and lay down across his path again. "There lays another old dead hare," said the bear. The hare jumped up and ran around a third time, and lay down across the bear's path. "What a nice meal I should have if I had those two which are left behind!" said the bear. He laid down his fish and went back to get them. He could not find them; and when he hurried back to get his fish, there was no trace of them, nor of the hare which he had left with the fish.

(*Version d.*²)

Once a fox heard a rabbit had outwitted a wolf. He decided not to be friends to her any more. But Mis' Rabbit came and begged his pardon, and it was granted. Mr. Fox offered to go hunting with Mis' Rabbit; but the rabbit was lazy and played off sick, and staid at Mr. Fox's house till he was very near ready to come back. Then she ran way down the road, and curled up and played off dead. Brer Fox came 'long and looked at her; but he thought probably she had been dead too long, so he passed on. As soon as Brer Fox was out of sight, Mis' Rabbit jumped up and ran through the field and got ahead of him, and laid down again to fake Mr. Fox. This time he looked at her and he looked into his bag. His bag was large enough to accommodate one or two more, so he put Mis' Rabbit in, and put his bag in the grass, and went back to get the other rabbit. Before he was around the corner Mis' Rabbit jumped up and ran home with Mr. Fox's game. So Mr. Fox found no game when he returned.

But one day Mis' Rabbit was walking along, and she asked Mr. Fox what he killed. He said he killed a lot of game, but he had learned a headful of har' sense. She laughed and went on.

27. CARTLOAD OF FISH.³

A boy had some fish; and he saw a fox, and he thought he was dead, and he put him upon the fish. An' he wasn' dead; and when the boy

¹ Abstract from tale written by W. O. Clayton in 1903.

² Written by Bassette in 1903.

³ Informant, Verna Turner of Hare Valley, Va. Compare comparative, JAFL 32 : 395 (note 1), also South Carolina (MAFLS 16 : 39-40, No. 25).

was pullin' his cart along, the fox took his fish and ate um. An' when the boy got home, he didn' have any fish.

28. RABBIT SEEKS MEAT.¹

The king's daughter was rich, and she wanted some alligator-meat to eat. The rabbit took his harp and went to the creek, and began to sing on his harp. The alligator came out to join in a dance; but the rabbit struck after him with a large club, so he went back. The rabbit went and killed a squirrel, and dressed himself in the squirrel's skin. He went back to the pond and began playing again. The alligator came out and played. The rabbit walked around playing until he got a chance to kill the alligator. He killed him, and carried him to his wife.

Then the rabbit's wife said that she wanted some panther-meat. The rabbit went to the woods and built a fire and blew a horn; and when the panther came, he told him that he would let him eat him if he would come through his fire. "I will," said the panther; but the panther did not know about the rabbit's tar baby in the middle of the fire. It caught him, and he died. The rabbit took him to his wife.

When the rabbit and his wife were nearly ready to go to their new place, his wife asked for some elephant-meat. She did not think that he could get elephant's meat; but he said, "I can get any kind of meat." He met the elephant, and said, "I heard that you could carry a stack of hay, a can of oil, a box of matches, and me on the top." — "I can," said the elephant. "Why, do you want to try it?" — "Yes." — "I don't believe you can," said the rabbit. They got the hay on the elephant's back, and the rabbit got upon the hay and took the oil and matches. As the elephant walked on, the rabbit put his oil on the hay. He thought the oil would sting the elephant; but before the elephant could speak, he said, "Hay stings people backs, don't it, brother Elephant?" — "Yes," said the elephant, "but I don't mind that." When they got nearly to the place where the rabbit would have to get down, the rabbit lighted a match and stuck it to the hay. Then he got down, and said, "What is that on your back?" After the elephant died, he took some of the meat to his wife. Soon after this the rabbit and his wife moved to their new place in Georgia.

29. ABOVE GROUND AND BELOW GROUND.²

Once a rabbit and a fox undertook to work a farm together. They made an agreement that the rabbit was to have all that grew above

¹ Informant, Boyd Rhetta. Recorded by A. M. Bacon. Compare South Carolina (MAFLS 16 : 14-19, No. 8), Georgia and comparative (JAFL 32 : 404, 416-417).

² Informant, Loneva Willoughby. Recorded by A. M. Bacon. Compare North Carolina (JAFL 30 : 175; 32 : 391), South Carolina (MAFLS 16 : 109-111, No. 112), Biloxi (JAFL 6 : 48). Comparative, Bolte u. Polívka, 3 : 355.

the ground, and the fox all that grew below the ground. The first year they planted peas. When the peas were ripe, the rabbit had them all. Buh Fox was angry at this, and said the rabbit cheated him. Buh Rabbit said, "Don't let's quo'rl! I will tell you how to settle this fuss. Next year you shall have all that grows above the ground, and I will have what grows below." So it was agreed. The next year they planted potatoes; and again they had trouble, for Buh Rabbit got all the crop. He kept on that way until he starved the fox to death. Then he had all the crop, and all the land too. Buh Rabbit sure is sharp.

30. DANCING OUT SAND.¹

Once the rabbit and the fox went courting a king's daughter. The king said he would give her to the one who would dance sand out of the rock. The fox danced and danced, but could not dance any sand out of the rock. At last the rabbit had his turn. Before he began, he tied a bag of sand with a little hole in the bottom in each of his trouser's legs. Then he danced, and the sand flew. He said, "O Buh Fox! just look, just look!" The fox knew that his chance was lost. The rabbit won the king's daughter.

31. FATAL IMITATION.²

One day Brer Rabbit was very hungry, and he did not feel like working, so he thought he would get a meal in some foul way. He saw a fisherman coming along the road one day with his tray of fish on his head, plying his trade. So he immediately jumped into his hole and stuck his foot out, so as to trip up the fisherman. Not noticing where he was walking, the fisherman came along and stumped his foot against Brer Rabbit's, upsetting his whole tray of fish. Brer Rabbit then ran out and got a full supply of fish, and then ran back in. Before long Brer Wolf came along past Brer Rabbit's house, and smelled the fish that Brer Rabbit was cooking. He called in to Brer Rabbit, "Where did you get all dem fish, Brer Rabbit?" — "From the fisherman." — "Well, gimmie some, den!" — "No, but I'll tell you how to get 'em. You go home and stick your big toe up out of de ground; and when de fisherman comes along, he will stump his foot against yours, and throw away all his fish; then you run out, get as much as you want." — "All right!" says Brer Wolf. Brer Wolf went home and did this, but this time the fisherman was very particular where he walked; and when he came by Brer Wolf, he recognized the toe, and with the big stick he had he beat poor Brer Wolf's toe until it was well broken.

¹ Recorded by A. M. Bacon.

² Written by Samuel D. Holloway in 1903.

32. IN LIQUOR.¹

Brer Rat fell into a barrel of whiskey one day, and couldn't get out: so he cries to Brer Cat, and says, "Brer Cat, if you take me out of this barrel, and when I dry, I'll let you eat me." — "All right!" says Brer Cat. So Brer Cat took Brer Rat out of the barrel of whiskey and put him in the sun so that he would dry quickly. Meantime Brer Rat was looking for some hole that he might run into. Finally he saw one, and with a jump he hid himself. Then Brer Cat says, "Oh, no! that's not fair, Brer Rat." — "What's not fair?" — "You said, if I took you out of that barrel of whiskey, you would let me eat you when you dry." — "A man's liable to say anything when he's in liquor."

33. WHY DOGS CHASE CATS.²

Once upon a time a dawg married a cat; an' every evenin' when the dawg came home, the cat was sick, and he never get any supper. One day the dawg decided to stay 'round the corner of the house and watch his wife. The cat went to playin' with the kitten. When she saw the dawg comin', she ran and put a marble into her mouth, an' said she had the toothache. An' the dawg started to chasin' her. Dawgs been chasin' cats ever since.

34. NOBODY BUT YOU AND ME.

(*Version a.*³)

Once an old man, an' his name was Uncle Mose; and some one tol' him that if he could stay in this haunted house, he would give him all the meat he could eat. So he went to this house, and he started a fire on the hearth, and he put on his frying-pan with the meat in it. A little animal came in the chimney and turned the frying-pan over, and said, "There's nobody but you and me here to-night, Uncle Mose." And he set his frying-pan up again, and he turned the frying-pan over again, and said, "There's nobody but you and me here to-night, Uncle Mose;" and Uncle Mose said, "Yes, an' I ain't a-gwine to be here long."

(*Version b.*⁴)

There was once a haunted house; and the man said to John, "If you stay in this house, I'll give you two bushels of gold." So that night, while John was in there layin' back to get a good smoke, a cat as big as a man came, and said, "John, ain't nobody here but me an' you." John said, "Hol' on! 'tain' nobody gwine be here but you pretty soon."

¹ Written by Samuel D. Holloway.

² Informant, Lillian Courtney of Hampton.

³ Informant, Thomas L. Man of Phœbus. Compare Hampton, Va. (*Southern Workman*, 28 : 449), South Carolina (*JAFL* 34 : 21). Comparative, *JAFL* 32 : 367 (note 1).

⁴ Informant, Gladys Bright of Hampton.

He ran so fast 'til he came to a rabbit; said, "Rabbit, don't you know you ought not to get in a skyared man's path?" He ran so fast 'til he outran the rabbit. He came to a man. The man said, "I didn't know you could run so." John said, "You haven't seen anything yet; jus' wait a minute."

An' John came to the man's house that offered him the two bushels of gold. The man said, "John, I thought you was goin' to stay in the house." — "No, I ain't goin' to stay in that house, either." And then he tol' him about the kyat and the rabbit and the man.

(*Version c.*¹)

Mr. Scott offered Uncle Tom a cartload of watermelons if he would stay in a haunted house one night. Uncle Tom went into the house and looked all through it. He didn't see anything. Then he sit down an' went to sleep. After a while a pair of boots came down. Then a barrel came down. Then a broom came down. An' it woke Uncle Tom. Then the ghost came down. The ghost said, "It ain't nobody here but you and me."² Uncle Tom said, "I ain't gwine to be here long." Then Uncle Tom began to run. He got tired, and sit down on a stone. When he looked around, he saw the ghost an' all the things sittin' down 'longside of him. The ghost said, "Ha! You ain't got rid of me yet!" Then Uncle Tom began to run again. He ran all the way to the farmer's house. Tol' the farmer he could have his ol' watermelons, if he wanted to, he wasn't gwine to stay in that old haunted house for nobody.

35. WHO DAT SAYS "WHO DAT SAYS 'WHO DAT?'"³

Oncet there was a man. He said he wasn't afraid to stay in the house where any one died. And some man tol' him if he'd stay in there, he'd give him two thousand dollars. And he was sittin' there smokin' his pipe, an' some one came there and said, "Who dat?" And this man said, "Who dat says 'Who dat?'" The other man says, "Who dat says 'Who dat says 'Who dat?'" An' the man took up his hat and flew.

36. MAGIC FLIGHT.⁴

Was a little girl named Katie; and an old woman lived in a house by herself, and everybody believed she was a witch. As Katie was passin' by, the old woman opened the door and told her to come in, and the

¹ Informant, Lucy Morris of Phœbus.

² When the story was retold, it ran, "There's plenty of us here to-night."

³ Informant, Verna Turner of Hare Valley, Virginia.

⁴ Informant, Thelma Cannady of Hampton. She heard the story from her grandmother, who lives at Newport News. Compare Bahamas (MAFLS 13 : 50-60, with bibliographical notes); also South Carolina (MAFLS 16 : 51-52, No. 36), Zushi (JAFL 35 : 83).

little girl went in and saw a beautiful room with lots of pretty pictures; and the old woman said she would give her some apples to eat. And after she finished eating the apples, the old woman told her to stay with her all the time. An' then Katie remembered that her mother sent her on an errand to get something for supper. She told the ol' woman that she would stay, but she had to get something for her mother for supper, else she wouldn' have anything. An' she told her she could have anything she wanted; and she took a wand and hit the table, an' in Katie's mother's house there came lots of good things, and she was wonderin' where they came from. And Katie 'greed to stay with her for a week. An' at the end of the week she had a dream. She dreamed that a elf came and told her that the witch was goin' to kill her. The next night she dreamed the same thing. The elf left her a comb and a handkerchief, and told her to drop them when the witch came after her. She jumped out the window in the middle of the night; and as she was almos' nearin' home, she looked behind and saw the witch comin' after her. So she dropped her comb, an' a fores' grew up; and it took the witch a long time to get through. Then, after she got through, Katie dropped her handkerchief, and a river came. An' the witch had to cross the river. As she was almos' home, she came to a woods where a wood-cutter was cuttin' down some trees. The wood-cutter saw the witch, so he cut off her haid. He took Katie home. And her mother told her that came of children that disobeyed.

37. FLOWER OF DEW.¹

Once there was an old woman who staid in the wood. She was a witch. A man and his young wife were out in the woods. The old witch saw the young woman, and she changed her to a nightingale. The man wept a great while, and he began to seek some way to get his wife. He was out walking, and he found a crimson flower with dew in the middle. He pulled the flower and went to the witch's house, and went to the cage of his wife; and she came out, and they went home.

38. THE LITTLE GIRL AND HER SNAKE.²

Once upon a time there was a little girl name' Little Annie Johnsen. Her father's name was Charles Johnsen. Her mother's name was Carrie Johnsen. This Little Annie lived in the woods. Every morning when she ate her breakfast, she always leave something in her plate. It was a milk-snake that lived in her back yard, and every morning she would carry food to this snake. Her mother and father wonder why she would go down to the back yard so much. Her mother followed

¹ Recorded by A. M. Bacon. See Bolte u. Polivka, 2 : 69.

² Written by Bernice Pressey. Compare North Carolina (JAFL 30 : 185), Alabama (JAFL 32 : 373). Comparative, Bolte u. Polivka, 2 : 459.

her one morning, and she found her down the back yard feeding the snake. This little girl was eight years old. This snake was very kind to her.

39. THE TEST.¹

During slavery-time Marse George owned a good number of pigs. So Uncle Dick and sev'el other slaves made up a plot to kill some of these. So the night for the slaughter came, and they succeeded in killing three. As they were takin' them home, they met Marse George younges' boy; but he didn' make out what dey have, but wondered what were dey doin' out dat late. So nex' day 'bout ten o'clock Marse George called Uncle Zeke and tol' him to roun' up his hawgs. So it was found dat four was missin'. So Marse George sent for Broder John, and tol' him to call all his niggers up. An' he did as he was tol'. Marse George said, "Some of you been stealin' ma hawgs." He then asked his wife's opinion 'bout de matter. So she suggested that a rope would be tied between two magnolia-trees, and the one that didn' jump it stole the hawgs.² So de day appointed came, an' Marse George's dawg led it. So it finally came Marse George's horsler and he missed de rope. So he was given hundred lashes and put back on de farm.

40. SOUL OR SOLE.³

Once upon a time there lived a girl. She wanted to know any kind of dance, and sing any kind of song. One day while she was alone, a man stood before her. He said, "You are always thinking about dancing and singing." He said, "If you want to, I will make you so as long as you want to. You must give your soul to my master when your time is up." — "I should like to be with him for twenty-eight years," she said. The time rolled by quickly. When her time was up, she heard a loud noise, saying, "I am coming! I am coming! I am coming after you! According to your word, I am coming after you!" The master had come after her soul. She did not want to give him her real soul. She took up an old shoe-sole and threw it at him. The ugly, man-like thing did not know the difference, and he was contented.

41. MATE TO THE DEVIL.⁴

Once there was a woman who could do anything she wished to do. If she didn't like some one, she would speak to him, and in that way hurt him; and if one of her friends should get cross with another person

¹ Informant, Armstead V. M. Jones of Scotland, La.

² This appears to be a variant of the test of jumping the fire. See, comparative, JAF 32 : 394 (note 3) and MAFLS 16 : 14 (No. 7). It seems to be a variant of the widespread South African story of the test by walking the rope (see JAF 35 : 193).

³ Written by William Herbert.

⁴ Informant, Betty Wiley. Recorded by A. M. Bacon.

that she didn't like, she would throw something on the ground and make something that belonged to that person fall dead. In that way she threw a dipper of water on the ground for spite to a man, and made one of his fine horses fall dead in the street. This woman was said to be a mate to the Devil, and he could give her power to hurt any one that she didn't like or got cross with. She had power to kill if she would only speak when she was angry. There were a great many rooms to her house; and in one of the rooms up in the fourth story was a dark room, always with a blue candle in there burning, and an old man said to be the Devil. This man staid in there always, and never came out. The way he was seen was by a very small window. He at length opened it, and an old woman was going by, when she saw him. This story is what she told.

42. WOMAN-CAT.

(Version a.¹)

Long, long ago there lived an old miller. His family was very small. There was no one but him and his wife alone. This old man was not very rich, and had to work very hard to save what he had. His mill was the greater part of his property. He ran it day and night, or the larger part of the night. His wife was an old witch, and would come to the mill every night while this old man was there. She came in the form of a cat. The old man would stop his mill after everybody was gone with their meal. He would spend the other part of the night reading. This cat would come every night and get in his lap. Sometimes the cat would not let him read, she would make so much noise. The old man was very tired of her. One day he was telling one of his friends about the cat, how it acted. This friend called himself very wise. So he said that it was the miller's wife. This friend told him how he could prove that it was his wife. The miller was told to cut off one of the cat's paws; and if it was his wife, it would be her finger. The miller laughed at his friend, but he did as he was told. The cat came in that night as usual, and sat in the miller's lap. The miller began playing with her; and while he was playing, he slipped out his knife and cut off one of her paws. The cat left the mill as quick as she could. The miller put the paw in his pocket, and it turned into a finger. The miller went home the next morning, and found his wife in bed claiming she was sick.

(Version b.²)

Once upon a time there was a man whose wife was a witch, and he owned a gris'-mill. He employed a man to keep the mill. Every night

¹ Recorded by A. M. Bacon. Compare South Carolina (JAFL 34 : 9-10; MAFLS 16 : 24-25, No. 12; JAFL 30 : 196).

² Written in 1899.

this keeper would light his candle and read his Bible. After a few nights a cat would come in and get upon the table and put out the light. Finally the old mill-keeper became enraged, and cut the cat's left paw off. The cat hurried out on three legs. As soon as the man cut off the paw, it became a hand, upon which was a beautiful ring. On it was the name of his employer's wife. The next morning the old keeper went to the house and asked to see the lady, without explaining his business. The landlord objected, of course, as the lady was ill in bed. Then the man drew from his pocket this hand, and told the full story. The husband looked at the ring and knew it. Then he carried the man into his chamber, and told her that this man wanted to see her. The man wanted to shake her hand. She refused. Then he took from his pocket this hand and ring. Her husband was there, and she knew he would not want her any more. So she got up out of the bed and began to plan for her departure.

She ordered a boy to go to the store and bring her two tin plates, but not to put his tongue to them; if so, he would break her craft. The boy got the plates and did not fail to put his tongue to them. The witch took the plates, placed them to her side, and became a bird. She took her flight; and, after getting a few rods in the air, the plates fell off, leaving her without wings: hence she fell to the ground and smashed into bits. These bits became moles, and burrowed in the ground.

43. BROOM-CHARM.

(Version a.¹)

Once an old colored man was harassed several nights by what he said was an old witch riding him, so he planned to catch her. She came every night in the form of a yellow cat. This night, as the old man lay down before the open fire-arch, which had in it a big hot fire, he saw this same yellow cat come in the door and take her seat right before the big fire in front of him. He immediately got up, and took his broom and put it across the door; and then he went back, stirred the fire up, put on several more logs, and made it as hot as possible. The yellow cat, which was the old witch, could not move out of her place, but simply turned from one side to the other. She could not move as long as the broom lay across the door. After the old man had burned almost all the fur and skin off the cat, he removed the broom and told her to go. No sooner was the broom removed than the cat flew. The old man said that he knew who she was: so the next day he went to this neighbor's house to see how she was; and before he got there, the woman's husband met him, and asked why he burned his wife so badly last night. He said that she was in bed, with the skin burnt off of her.

¹ Written by Nannie Williams in 1899.

If it is a white cat, it is a white woman; a yellow cat, a yellow woman; and a black cat, a black woman; and if you put the broom across the door when the cats come in, they cannot leave until the broom is removed, so it is said.

44. OUT OF HER SKIN.

(*Version a.*¹)

Once there was a woman that could turn into a witch. When the husband would go to bed, she would slip out, and go off into the woods and turn into a bear. Once she went off and turned into a bear, and a man shot her in the shoulder. When she went home, her husband asked her what had happened. She said that she got hurt through an accident. The next time she turned into a panther, and wandered off in a very thick woods and ran the women and children. One night she was off, and a man saw her and shot her in the hip. While she was gone, the husband missed her and got up. He saw her skin lying by the fire. He got some red pepper and put it inside of the skin. Then he locked the door to keep her from coming into the house that night. When she came back, she slipped through the keyhole and went to get into her skin. Every time she went to get in, the pepper would burn her. She would say, "Skinny, skinny, don't you know me?" Then she would try again: it would burn her still. She would say, "Skinny, skinny, don't you know me?" The husband woke up. She got into it, but could not stay. Then she was tarred, and burnt to death.

(*Version b.*²)

Once it was said that an old lady had a very bad enemy near her. She got mad. She tried in all ways to do her harm, and she could not. At last she decided to witch her, and so she did. The old woman at night slipped out of her skin and went to do her conjure-work. While she was gone out to conjure the woman, her husband went up there. No one was there. He went back home, looked in the corner of his chimney, and there lay a bundle. He took hold of it. While looking at it, it was a person's skin. Then he went into the house looking at the skin, and it was the old lady's skin. He then went to work boiling some red pepper. Then he rubbed the skin all over and put it back. By and by the old woman came back and tried to get back into her skin; but it burnt her so, she had to jump out again. Again and again she tried; but each time it burnt her so, she could not get into it. Finally she said, "There is a bad witch working on me. I must go home and get a doctor."

¹ Recorded by A. M. Bacon. Compare South Carolina (JAFL 34 : 10-11; MAFLS 16 : 63-64, No. 53). Comparative, JAFL 27 : 247; 32 : 363 (note 1).

² Recorded by A. M. Bacon.

45. THE SIX WITCHES.¹

Once upon a time there was a house which was scarcely noticed, that stood just outside of a very famous little village. In this house lived an old lady and her five daughters. The house looked terribly bad outside; but if any one had gone inside of it, they would have found it very different from the outside. The old lady and her five daughters were witches, and it is said that they got all they wanted from the village stores. One afternoon two travellers happened by this house just about sunset, and asked if they might stay all night. The old lady told them they could if they would be satisfied with the place she would give them, as she was not a rich person. The men told her it was all right, just so they were not out of doors. She asked them to come and sit down, she would have them something to eat in a few minutes. So she did. And the two men ate, and then went to bed very soon, for they were very tired from walking so hard. One of them went to sleep very soon after he got into bed; but the other one would not go to sleep, because he thought the old lady and her daughters were up to something. Just as soon as the old lady and the family thought the men were asleep, they reached up the chimney and (each) got an old greasy horn² a juice and put to their mouths, then said a few words³ and was gone. The man that was not asleep grew very much frightened for a while, but soon got over it. As soon as he got over his fright, he got up and put on his clothes, and looked for the horns that the old lady and the five daughters used. He succeeded in finding the horns up the chimney. And as soon as he got them, he put one of them in his mouth and said a few words, and out he went. When he stopped, he was in a man's store in the village, where he found, to his surprise, the old lady and her daughters. He did not know how he got in the store: so he went up to the old lady and began to talk with her, but she gave him no answer. The old lady looked at her daughters, and said a few words which the man could not understand; and out they went, and left the man alone in the store. The man said as near as he could the same things that the old lady said, but could not get out. He would rise up as far as the ceiling of the store and strike his head, but could not get out. When day came, the poor man was so afraid, that he did not know what to do. The clerk of the store came down very soon and unlocked the door. "I have been missing things out of my store for a long time," replied the clerk, thinking that the man had hidden himself in the store before he closed it the night before. "Oh, no!" replied the man. "If you will allow me a chance, I will

¹ Written in 1903 by W. S. Burrell. Recorded by A. M. Bacon. Compare North Carolina (JAFL 32 : 392).

² *Variant:* Gourd.

³ *Variant:* "Flute, I'm gone." The other witches respond, "I'm after you."

tell you just how I happened to be here." So he told the clerk all about it, and also took the clerk to the old lady's house, where his partner was. When the clerk entered the old lady's house, he saw several things that he knew he had in his store and had missed them. So he went back to the village, and sent the sheriff after the old lady and her daughters, and let the man go free. When the old lady and her daughters were brought to trial, they were guarded by (?); and when they got ready to pass the sentence on them, they began to sing a little song, which every one wanted to hear. They sang for about fifteen minutes; and as they sang, they began to move directly upwards until they got so far up in the air that a person could hardly see them, and then disappeared. Those that were guards began to quarrel with each other because one did not shoot and the other did not shoot. So they got mad, and began shooting each other.¹

46. CAN'T SET STILL.²

There was once an old woman who was very anxious to get to church to tell her experience, as most of the Baptist people are; but this old woman was the last one to get to church, and every one was through telling their experience, so she was called upon as soon as she got in church. She got up twisting and turning, and then began, "Well, sisters and brothers, Ise had a mighty hard time to-day. I went to churn my milk, and the pig routed it over. I went to set my hen, and she flew up and broke my eggs. I got my old horse and started to church, he stuck a fence-rail in his side, and I had to walk, and I'm so full of sea-ticks I can't set still."

47. THE OLD WOMAN, HER DAUGHTERS, AND THE KID.³

Once there was a widow living in a house with two daughters, and she had a kid and kidkins. Gloves were very much in fashion then; and the girls used to keep asking their mother if they might not kill the kid, so as to have some gloves made out of the skin. But the mother said no, she had only that one kid, and could not spare her. At last the girls made a plot to have the kid, anyway. One night they asked their mother if they might bake some cakes. The mother let them do so. They baked and baked. At last the mother came to the fire to see if they had not nearly finished. They pushed her into the

¹ *Variant:* The witch puts something in the mouth of the man on the gallows, and on his head one of the black caps she and the other witches used in their flight. The man repeats the password after her; and they vanish to sight, leaving only a little smoke. Back in her house the old witch gave the young man his clothes, and said, "This is a lesson for you. Always mind your own business, and not old peoples'." (Burrell.) — Compare Maryland (JAFL 30 : 209-210).

² Written by Araminta in 1899.

³ Informant, Ida Woode. Recorded by A. M. Bacon.

fire, and she was burned to death. Then they killed the kid and skinned it, and got ready to make the gloves. That night, after they were in bed, the mother came back, and said, "Daughter, daughter!" The daughters were too frightened to answer; but the kid answered, and said, "Baa, baa, little mother!" The next morning the girls took the ashes of their mother and carried them off into the woods. The next night the mother came back and began to call at the gate, but she did not hear any answer. She came to the door and called, but still heard no answer. Then she pushed the door open, and went into the house and called and called, but did not get any answer. At last she jumped into the bed and tore the girls in pieces.

48. HAUNTED HOUSE.¹

There was a travelling preacher who was looking for a place to stay just for one night. He went to a very rich family and ask them, if they had a room, would they let him stay until morning. They told him that they did not have a room there, but there was an old house that sat over there in the field, it was very haunty, and "If you can stay, you are welcome to it, for several men have been there, but did not come out again." The preacher went over there to the old house, opened the door, and went upstairs, made himself a good fire in the fireplace, and sat there reading his Bible until twelve o'clock. He heard the dishes and pans rattling, and the chairs moving about, and some one scuffling around the floor. He said to himself, "I did not know that there were another family in here." He did not pay any attention to that, he went on reading his Bible. After a while he heard some one coming scuffling up the stairs. They said to him, "Mr. White said come down and have supper." — "Tell him that I am not at all hungry, I have just been to supper." The second time he sent a cat. It scratched on the door and said, "Mr. White says please come down and have supper." — "Tell him that I do not care for anything, I have just been to supper." The third time he said, "Mr. White says, if you don't come down, you wish you had." The preacher began to feel frighten', and said, "I will be down there in a minute." The preacher went down there to supper. There was a table all set with pretty dishes and plenty to eat. All the chairs around the table were filled with people except one, and that was for the preacher. When he sat down, they ask him if he would bless the table. He said, "Yes, I will." This is the blessing that he said: "Good Lord, make us thankful for what we are about to receive, for Christ sake. Amen." When he raised his head up, everybody was gone, and he was left there in the dark. He had to feel his way back up to his room. This was the only man ever lived there that did not get killed or ran away before

¹ Written by Elsie Johnson.

morning. The next morning the preacher left the house, and thanked the people for letting him stay there.

49. HAUNTED HOUSE.¹

Once upon a time was a family of people who were different from all the people around them. They had very nice stock around them, a large orchard, all kinds of poultry, and a beautiful flower-yard. When one of the family died, they that remained buried the one that was dead. When all of them died but one, he became very lonely and died very soon. There was not any one to bury him, so he lay on his bed and decayed. After his death the house was said to be haunted, and no one could go inside of it. The next year after the last one of this family died, the fruit-trees bore a tremendous quantity of fruit, but no one came to get it.

When people rode along the road which was near the house, they were often tempted to take some of the fruit that hung over the road; but when they put their hands to get the fruit, some one would speak to them and frighten them, so that they would forget the fruit. One day an old man who was a thief came by the house, and saw all the fruit and the poultry, and a large number of eggs lying under the flowers. He asked the people around why they did not get some of those things that were wasting there. The people answered by telling him if he could get any of them, he might have them. "Very well," replied the old man, "I will have some of those things before I sleep to-night." So he laid his coat that had his arms down just a little ways from the house, and stopped there until night came. As soon as it was a little dark, the man arose and went inside of the orchard, and tied eight hens which were up a large apple-tree to roost. When he had tied the eight, he discovered a light somewhere, he did not know where. He looked down on the ground, and there were two large dogs with lamps on their heads, which were giving him a good light. When he saw this, he became so frightened that he turned the hens loose and fell backwards out of the tree. The dogs jumped after him just as soon as he got to the ground. The man jumped up and began to run as fast as he could, with the dogs right behind him. His home was about four miles, and he ran every step of it. When he got to his house, he fell in the door speechless, and lay speechless for a long time. When he came to his senses, he told his wife and family about what had happened to him. After that there was not a man in the community that was any more honest than he was. He had been a rogue all of his life up to this time. After this happened he always worked for what he got.

¹ Informant, Duncan. Recorded by A. M. Bacon.

50. THE DISMEMBERED GHOST.¹

Once there was a very rich family of people, and they all died. Everybody was afraid to go there. Finally some one put up a sign-board which said, "Any one who will go to this house and stay over night can have the house and all that is in it."

A poor boy came along and read it. "I will go," said he, and he went at sunset. He found all that he wanted, and went to work to cook his supper. Just as he was ready to eat it, he heard a voice from the top of the chimney. He looked up, and saw a leg. The leg said, "I am going to drop." — "I don't care," said the boy, "jes' since you don' drop in my soup." The leg jumped down on a chair. Another leg came, and said, "I am going to drop." — "I don' keer," said the boy, "jes' since you don' drop in my soup." One after another all the members of a man came down in the same way. The little boy said, "Will you have some supper? Will you have some supper?" They gave him no answer. "Oh," said the little boy, "I save my supper, and my manners too." He ate his supper and made up his bed. "Will you have some bedroom? Will you have some bedroom?" said the little boy. No answer. "I save my bedroom, and my manners too," said the little boy; and he went to bed. Soon after he went to bed, the legs pulled him under the house and showed him a chest of money. The little boy grew rich, and married.

51. BURIED TREASURE.²

It is said once a very rich man died, and his store was haunted; and his brother wanted some one to stay there at night, but everybody was afraid. Then he said that he would give fifty dollars to any man to stay there one night. A doctor said that he would stay there that night; and he went in and closed the door, and took his newspaper to read. Now everybody was quiet, and he was reading away, he heard something walking on the doorsteps. Then he raised up his head, and the door flew open and in came a cow with no head; and he jumped up and ran out the other door. When the owner of the store heard this, he said, "I will give five hundred dollars to any one that will stay here the next night." Then a preacher said, "I will stay;" and the preacher went in and closed the door, and took his Bible to read. He said to himself, "I will go upstairs," and away he went. When all the town was still, he heard something coming in; he read on, then he heard it coming upstairs; read on, it came to him; then he looked up and saw four men without a head,³ with a coffin. Brought it to

¹ Recorded by A. M. Bacon. Compare Pennsylvania (JAFL 30 : 217), Zuffi (JAFL 35 : 88), Cape Verde Islands (MAFLS 15 [pt. 1] : 135, 241 [note 1]).

² Informant, Jonas McPherson. Recorded by A. M. Bacon. Compare North Carolina (JAFL 30 : 195), South Carolina (JAFL 32 : 368).

³ See JAFL 32 : 398.

him, sat it down, and started toward him. The preacher left, and told the news; and when the owner heard this, he said, "I will give five thousand dollars to any one that will stay here one night." Then a poor man said, "I will stay." He went in and closed the door, and in a few minutes he heard something coming in at the door. He was very much afraid; but he said, "I will not run, but I will ask it what it wants here." At this moment the door flew open, and in came a man without head and arms. The poor man said, "What do you want here?" Then he said, "That is what I have been coming here for, for some one to ask me that. Sir, my money is down under the hill; and if you come with me, I will show it to you, and you may have two thousand dollars of it, and I want you to divide the rest with my brothers." And he did so.

52. HAUNTED BRIDGE.¹

There is a bridge near my home known as the "Haunted Bridge." During the Civil War the Northern army came through this country, doing a great deal of damage. A man by the name of Mr. Cheek, who lived within fifty yards of my home, heard that this army was approaching. He made ready to escape on his horse. He started off in haste. He came to this ditch. He was in a hurry to cross. The crossing was called "Ford." The bridge has been built there since then. He made his horse run into the ditch, and both himself and the horse were killed. It is said by a good many people, at night when they cross the bridge, he can be seen at any time on his black horse, on a dark stormy night especially. There was a man who lived near Mr. Cheek's house whom Mr. Cheek did not like. I heard this man say that Mr. Cheek comes to his house every night and knocks. The man says he knows it is Mr. Cheek. Sometimes he gets up and opens his door, and once or twice he saw him in the form of a cow.

53. THE SINGLE BALL.²

There was once a slave and his mahster. The slave could tell any kind of a tale for his mahster, so his mahster used to take him around with him to visit his friends. On one occasion the mahster told the following tale, and asked Jake, his slave, to verify it and also tell jus' how it was done. "Yesterday Jake and I were out on East Mountain, huntin', and we saw a deer on West Mountain. And I aimed, and shot the deer through his right hind-heel and his right ear with one shot. — Didn't I do it, Jake?" — "Yes, sah, mahster! you certainly did it." — "Well, all right, Jake! You jus' tell this gentleman how I did it."

¹ Informant, Rosa Ruce. Recorded by A. M. Bacon.

² Informant, Payton Brown of Pulaski County, Virginia. Compare North Carolina, Georgia, Bahamas (JAFL 30 : 191); Georgia (JAFL 32 : 370); South Carolina (MAFLS 16 : 117, No. 122).

Jake scratched his head and thought a moment, and said, "Oh, yes! mahster, you mean the deer dat was scratchin' his head? De deer had his right foot up, scratch his right ear, when mahster shot, and the bullet went through his right heel and his ear." It was a very plausible story; but Jake turned to his mahster, and said, "Look here, mahster! please get dem shots a little closer together nex' time."

54. WHAT DARKENS THE HOLE?¹

Two Negro boys went out bear-hunting. They knew where there was an old bear with a cub. So they went; and the mother-bear was out from her hole, intending to get the baby-bears. And Jake staid on the outside to watch for the old bear, and Ike went in to get the baby-bear. While Ike was in, the baby-bears begin to cry; and the mother-bear, not being very far away, hurried to see what was the trouble. She came so swiftly, that Jake didn't have time to call to Ike; but jus' as the mother-bear went into the hole, Jake seized her by the tail. Ike was within, and the light had been shut off; and Ike hollered, "Hey! What darken de hole?" An' Jake replied, "If dis tail-hol' slips, you'll see what darkens de hole."

55. THE SLAVE TURNS.²

Once upon a time there was a king who had a daughter. Her name was Mabel. One night Mabel was invited to a big dance. The slave who worked for her father was to carry her to dis dance. Before they could get there they had to cross a little river. The slave pulled his shoes off and took her on his back. After while they arrived at dis house where the dance was. When she got in dis house, she did not notice him. When she got ready to go, the slave carried her to the river. He had to pull off his shoes, as before. When he got half way the river, the slave dropped her in the water, and said, "Ben Jones' horse ti'ed."

56. SWEET-POTATOES.³

Once upon a time there was a little slave who always said that he didn't like sweet-potatoes. Every night he would go to his master's potato-hill and steal his potatoes. Then he would go back to his little house and sit around the fire, and say, —

"Sweet-'tatoes, yer nice,
Are blows an' bites.
I eats a peck every night."

¹ Informant, Payton Brown of Pulaski County, Virginia. Compare Georgia (JAFL 32 : 371), South Carolina (MAFLS 16 : 118, No. 124).

² Written by Adeline Wyche.

³ Written by Helen Bailey.

The next time that he went to the hill, his master watched him. After he had gotten into the house and cooked the potatoes, his master opened the door and went in. "I thought you said that you didn't like potatoes," said the master. He carried him down to the place where he whipped his slaves at, and whipped him.

"Yes, master, blows an' bites.

I eats a peck every night.

Sweet-potos, sweet-potoes.

Yes, master, I ain't gwoin' eat no mo' dem 'tatoes."

57. MASTER'S HOG.¹

Once there was an old man who, every time his master killed a hog, would kill one too. One day he killed a very large hog, and was trying to carry it upstairs. The old man kept saying, "Push, old lady, push!" The old woman would say, "Pull, old man, pull!" She looked, and saw their master coming, and she turned the hog loose. The old man saw his master coming, and he began to pull, and call out, "Push, old lady, push! It's the heavies' hog I eber kill; but push, old lady, push!" But old massa came up and caught the hog, and pulled until the old man turned it loose. Old massa went and got a switch, and began with the son first. The old man would say, "Stand to it, my son! stand to it!" He drew blood; but the old man say, "Stand to it, my son! Neber fail. Stand to it!"

58. WHAT DID YOU SAY?²

Long ages ago, when our fore-parents were slaves, every rainy day they would have pease to eat. One day when the master brought the pease to his slaves, one of them said, "Um ti'ed a pease. We's got pease fur dinner, and we's got pease fur suppers." His master heard what he said. He came right away, and asked him what did he say. "Not'in', master," said he; "I just say, 'More rain, more grass grows.'"

59. MASTER'S FOWLS.³

Master began to miss his fowls: so one night he walked down the field towards Aunt Dinna's house, and he saw a big fire with a pot over it. Now Aunt Dinna began to sing, —

"Massa, ain't you glad your old game-hen

Been on the roos' so long?

But Ah got 'em in the pot at las'."

Aunt Dinna sang over this tune three or four times while taking the feathers from the old hen. So the master began to sing, —

¹ Recorded by A. M. Bacon. Compare South Carolina (JAFL 34 : 22).

² Written by Helen Bailey. Compare South Carolina (MAFLS 16 : 54).

³ Written by Thorne.

"Aunt Dinna, ain't you glad my old game-hen
Been on the roos' so long?
You got 'em in the pot at las'.
But, Aunt Dinna, ain't you sorry
You got my old game-hen in the pot,
For Massa gwine to cut your back at last."

60. SAVING HOG.¹

In this community, every time any one killed a hawg, it was necessary to give some of it to the neighbors. So Sis Garret husband killed a hawg; and Sis Garret said, "Garret, you ain't gwine give away all dis hawg. Us gwine to save it fur us chillun." Soon after dey had killed de hawg, and cut it up and salted it down, Sis Jenkins came to see Sis Garret. When Sis Garret saw Sis Jenkins comin', she exclaimed, "Oh, my Lord! Garret, yonder comes Sis Jenkins. Push de meat under de baid." He get out de house. Now, Sis Jenkins came in, and said, "Good-mornin', Sis Garret! I been hear you kill hawg." Sis Garret say, "Yes, I been kill; but he been a small one, and Garret an' de chillun done eat um all up." An' Sis Jenkins answered, "Yere!" An' den de two women begun to talk about first one thing and then the other. While they sat talking, Sis Garret's large gray kyat came in and ran under the bed. Suddenly the kyat came back out, dragging a large piece of fresh pork. Sis Jenkins exclaimed, "Sis Garret! What's dat de kyat been have?" Sis Garret jumped up and stretched her apron in front of de kyat with the meat; and she shouted, "Oh, my Gawd! Skyat! Skyat!"

61. GOING TO HEAVEN.²

Once there was an old slave who prayed to the Lord that he would take him home, soul and body. At last, one day when his master was gone off, he told his wife that next day he would bid the world good-by, for the Lord had made known to him that he was going to take him up, soul and body. So next day he went out to a tree where he often went, and prayed, "O Godie! take me to the place where people don't have to work! Master give five hundred lashes every night and morning." His master was out in the bushes, and heard everything that was said. So he went to town and bought a line and windlass. He took the line and climbed to the top of the tree. By and by the old slave came back, and prayed, "O Lord! take me to heaven, where massa can't beat me any more! Send me a line from heaven!" He looked up, and there was the line. He took hold of the rope and put it around his neck. He said, "Lord, Ise ready to go." Now his master began to draw him up. The slave said, "Wait, Lord! Let me down again!" He let him down.

¹ Informant, Julian Bagley of Duval County, Florida.

² Recorded by A. M. Bacon.

He then said, "God, I ready! Let me go again!" and he started up again. Then he said, "O Lord! let me down again, and get some moss hay and put it on my neck!" He put the hay on his neck. Then he said, "I go now, I know. Farewell, everything!" He left the ground. He did very well till he got up about nine hundred feet, then he got to whirling around. He said, "O Lord! let me back!" but his master did not let him back. He said, "O God! don't you hear me? Let me back!" His master then got so ticklish until he turned the windlass loose, and down he fell. When he reached the ground, he had no breath left. He lay there like a dead man for a long time. When he came to his right sense, he got up and ran home. When he got home, he said, "Alice, I want you tell me what you praying to God for. You just as well pray to the Devil: for God made known to me that He was going to take me where He is; and when He got me way up, He let me fall back to the ground. I ain't gwine pray no mo', an' I don' want to see you pray no more. You is just losing your time, and you might get more sleep. I don' want see you at such a thing again."

62. THE LORD AND LANGTON.¹

Once there was an old man named Langton; and whenever he prayed, he would say, "O Lord! please come and take poor Langton home out of his suffering!" Every night he did that, people began to notice it: so some mischievous boys said that they would try his faith. One night they came to the old man's door, and waited until the old man began to pray. When he got to his old saying, one of them knocked on the door, — bam, bam, bam! The old man stopped praying and listened, and no one said anything. After a while he began again; and soon he said, "O Lord! please come and take poor Langton home out of his sufferings!" One of the boys knocked on the door, — blip, blip, blip! The old man stopped again, and asked, "Who is that?" One of them replied, "The Lord has come to take poor Langton home out of his sufferings." The man jumped off his knees and blew the light out, then with a very excited voice exclaimed, "Langton has been dead and gone a fortnight!"

63. HUNTING ON SUNDAY.²

Once there was a man who would go hunting every night, — Monday night, Tuesday night, Wednesday night, Thursday night, Friday night, Saturday night, Sunday night. And doing this, the preacher begged him to cease hunting so much. He would hunt Sunday nights.

¹ Written by Pratt in 1899. Compare South Carolina (MAFLS 16 : 57-58, No. 46), Virginia (JAFL 32 : 361-362, and bibliographical note).

² Informant, Allen Ewing of Butler County, Alabama. Compare North Carolina (JAFL 30 : 184).

But he didn't heed. One Sunday he went out with the dawgs. He treed a 'possum. All at once something up in the tree began naming the days of the week: "Monday night, Tuesday night, Wednesday night. . . poor 'possums can't get no rest." Came down out of the tree, ketch the dawgs, beat them. The man ran away home, said that was a cure for hunting Sunday nights.

64. THE FRIGHTENED GUEST.¹

Once upon a time a master had a boy working for him. One Sunday his master went to church and told him to cook a duck. The boy cooked the duck, and said, "I will taste the wing;" then he said, "I will taste the other wing;" and then he ate all the duck. Then it was too late to cook another duck. His master brought the preacher to take dinner. The master was sharpening his knife. The boy said, "He is sharpening his knife to kill you." The preacher began to run. The boy said to his master, "There he goes with the duck!" The master began to run after the preacher.

65. DIVIDING THE SOULS.²

This story my grandmother told me 'bout slavery-time.

There was an old man on the plantation. He was lame, he had a cork leg, and he insisted he couldn't get along without a cane to help him walk. He had two grandsons at that time who were very eager to hunt nuts in the woods. One afternoon in the fall these two boys went hunting walnuts. On the way back, for fear that some of the other children would take their nuts, they stopped by the cemetery to hide them. So they went in and hid the walnuts behind a tombstone, intending to leave them there until night, and then come and get them. To be sure that nobody had bothered them, they brought two out, — two walnuts, — and put them outside of the gate. That night after supper they sneaked outside the cabin to the cemetery to divide their walnuts. They sat down in the cemetery and began dividing them in this way: "Two for me, and two for you; two for me, and two for you." About that time one of the slaves passed the cemetery. It was about midnight. He heard these boys talking. So he ran very fast to the cabin, 'cause it frightened him hearing these boys in the cemetery, and told Uncle Remus that Satan and the Lord were in the cemetery dividing the souls, saying, "Two for me, and two for you."

¹ Written by William H. Harris. Compare comparative, MAFLS 13 : 77; also South Carolina (MAFLS 16 : 140, No. 159).

² Informant, Genna Carter of Greensborough, N.C. Compare North Carolina (JAFL 30 : 177), Charlottesville, Va. (JAFL 30 : 215). In the Negro musical comedy *Lisa*, played this season in New York, the graveyard scene of this well-known English-Negro tale is introduced, the ghostly voice saying, "You take the tall one, and I'll take the short one," in this dramatic version the two grave-robbers being tall and short.

Uncle Remus doubted this statement, and they both went to investigate. They stopped just at the gate to listen; and they heard these boys saying, "Two for me, and two for you; two for me, and two for you." 'Bout that time Uncle Remus said, "Lord, I believe dey is." The boys had just about finished dividing the walnuts, and, remembering the two outside the gate they left, one said, "Two for me, two for you, and those two outside the gate you can have either one of them you want." Uncle Remus, not sure which one would get him, Satan or the Lord, dropped his stick which he used for thirty years, and ran back to the cabin.

66. NOT TOO LAME.

(Version a.¹)

A rich planter fell from his horse in a fox-hunt, and was lamed for life. He was carried about in a litter by four slaves. When his wife was about to die, she made him promise to bury with her all her jewels. The planter was carried every day to the grave, and every night would send a servant to see that the grave was undisturbed. One night the servant returned in haste to report that some one was robbing the grave. The litter-bearers had gone to a cake-walk on the next plantation, so the planter made his servant carry him on his back. . . . The slaves reasoned, "We belongs to marster, an' de chickens dey belongs to marster." And so they felt free to take what they wanted. Two slaves planned to steal a sheep and to bury it for safe-keeping in the graveyard. One went to the pasture to get the sheep; the other, to the graveyard to dig the hole. When the planter came on the back of the servant, the man digging thought it was his partner with the sheep. "Is he fat?" he asked. The servant was frightened by the voice from the grave, and said, "Fat er lean, take him!" and dumped his master into the hole, and ran back to the house. He was the fastest runner on the plantation; but when he reached the house, he found his master there already, with the bed-clothes over his head.

(Version b.²)

McAllister's plantation adjoined Joe Jenkin's, and their slaves were neighbors.

Joe's coachman was a big strapping fellow, with swarthy skin, kinky hair, pearl teeth gracefully set in a bright-red gum that was very prominent whenever he parted his weighty lips to speak or grin. Sam was very fond of McAllister's house-maid. Lily Bell prided herself as the belle of all the plantations, far and near. She was a mulatto of medium height and size, beautifully shaped, with bright rosy cheeks,

¹ Written by I. C. Diamond in 1899. His version has been abbreviated. Compare North Carolina (JAFL 30 : 184), Alabama (JAFL 32 : 398).

² Written by John A. Jentons in 1903.

dark eyes that sparkled under heavy eyelids, and her head was covered with thick, black, glossy hair.

Sam was always in the height of glory when he was *en route* to "ma Bell's house;" but once when he got there, her charming features and musical voice had not the usual pleasant effect on him. Lily Bell got uneasy as she stared at Sam from head to foot.

"Why, what's the mattah wid ma Sam, humph? Who's been atter you, dem hans or dem hants? Oh, talk, Sam! Don't you hear yo' honey talkin' to you?" All this time Sam stood with head bent. After a while he broke silence: "Wal, you see, Lily Bell, I is so glad you t'ink so much ob Sam; but to-night you came near not habin' any Sam, 'cause de hants like ter skeered me to deaf." — "Why, Sam!" — "Yes, indeed, honey! 'tis er fact! As I wus comin' ober here ter-night by de cemetary, I saw two white hants standin' up straight, and one on de ground." — "Whar did yer see dem, Sam?" — "By de graveyard." — "O Sam! I know you are 'fraid to go back to-night." Just at this instant Lily Bell's brother spoke. "I ain't erfraid of hants; and ef I could walk, I would go home wid you, Sam." This boy was deformed. He had almost reached his first score, and he had never walked. Sam was much comforted by Tom's remarks, and he felt ashamed of himself for being afraid, if poor afflicted Tom was not afraid of hants. The graveyard which Sam had often passed at night was about two miles from the cabin where Lily staid. He thought that was quite a ways to carry a man, but finally he accepted the proposition. "Will you do it, Tom, sure enough?" — "Yes, Sam, ef you tote me, I will." — "Den, all right, Tom! Ef Lily will excuse me, I will be goin' right now, 'case I am in a big hurry."

The objects Sam saw at the graveyard were not hants: they were men. Two men had been in the act of stealing McAllister's sheep and coming to the graveyard to dress them. This is what Sam saw. After taking leave of Lily Bell for the night, he started home with Tom on his back. He dared not look up, but walked with his head downward. Just as they reached the graveyard, one of the rogues who was waiting for his partner to come with a sheep, through mistake took Sam for his partner. So he rushed to Sam, and, rubbing his hand on Tom, he said, "Is he fat, John?" Just then Sam dropped Tom, saying, "Take him, fat er lean! I don't want him." Sam started back to Lily's home as fast as he could run. Poor Tom was so frightened, he knew not what to do. Although he had never walked, that night he beat Sam running, and got back home before Sam did. On investigation the next morning, it was found out just what had been taking place at the graveyard. The slaves of both plantations were never after that afraid of haunts, and Tom continued to walk.

67. SKELETON.¹

There were once some men who offered one hundred dollars to the man who would bring them the skeleton of a dead person. That night, before the man got to the cave, one of the men who offered the money went and got in there and hid himself. The man came along and went into the cave to get his skeleton. The man in the cave said, "So, so! dat's my head." The man tried three time; but each time he was frightened by the man hid in the cave, who kept saying, "Dat my head, dat my head." Finally he grabbed the skull and ran away. The man ran till he came to the house; then he said, "Here, take your skull! The Devil is on behind."

68. FIRST OUT.

(Version a.²)

Once Mutt and Jeff got together, thinking what they wanted to do. "Say, Jeff! I know where I can get me some meat. Let's go round yonder and see that house to-night! There's a cow round there I want to get." They got there that night 'bout twelve o'clock. Mutt tol' Jeff, "Take this axe. I wantcher ter hit the first thing that come out in the head." So Mutt went in, and lef' Jeff on the outside. Cow had a young calf, Mutt didn' know it. Cows are very bad when they have young calves. Mutt went under the house (in olden time people used to keep the cow under the house) to get the cow. The cow run him out first. So Jeff struck him on the head and knocked him to de groun'. When he became conscious, he asked Jeff, "What didcher hit me for? What didcher mean?" Jeff said, "Nofin (nothing), only to do what you tol' me to do."

(Version b.³)

Story about two Dutchmen. They went out one night to ketch some sheep. They knew where it was a pas'ure, and to this pas'ure there was only one gate. Dutch people they don't seem to remember as well as we do, and one of the men told Sam to go 'roun' in the pas'ure and drive the sheep to him. An' Sam went in at this gate, and this other man was called Pat. Pat staid at the gate; and when Pat sent Sam in, he said, if anything came at the gate, he was goin' to kill it. Sam went in the pas'ure and roamed all aroun', but he couldn' fin' any sheep. After he had hunted all round in the pas'ure, he had forgotten what Pat had told him, and, not thinking, came back to the same place that he went in. Pat not knowin' any better, when Sam

¹ Recorded by A. M. Bacon.

² Informant, Fred Davenport of Newbury, S.C. Compare South Carolina (JAFL 34 : 8).

³ Informant, Augustine O. Green of Amelia County, Virginia.

came up through the gate, Pat took him for a sheep. Pat was standin' outside the gate with a large club; and, when Sam came out, Pat struck him with the club and knocked him out. At the same time Pat thought that Sam had a sheep; but when he came to find out, he had knocked Pat in the head. Pat said to himself, "This will end up my tryin' to get other people's sheep."

69. RABBIT-MEAT.¹

Once a old man caught a rabbit, and was telling his friends how good rabbit-meat was. He said, "It is good fried, it is good stewed, it is good baked, it is good any way you can cook it."² While he was bragging about it, the rabbit jumped out of his hand and went in full speed across the field, while the old man watched him. After a while the old fellow hallowed out, "Go ahead! you are not any good. You are dry meat, anyhow, and I never did like you."

70. BRICK ON HER HEAD.³

Once there was a little girl name' May, and she went to her grandmother's to stay for a while. She had a pretty little pink dress, and it was gettin' too small for her. Her grandmother told her she couldn't wear it next summer, because it was too small. And she tol' her to put a brick on her head, so she wouldn't grow more. And when she went back to her mother, her mother asked her why was she so small. She tol' her she had been wearing a brick on her head.

71. CHOOSING A WIFE.⁴

It was once a boy. Had been out to seek his wife. So he met three daughters, and he loved them all, but he didn't know which one to take. So his mother told him to invite them all to his house and give them each some cheese. The first one ate the cheese with the skin and all. The second cut the skin off, and took half the cheese with it. The last one did not cut too much nor too little. So that was the one he chose for his wife.

72. HOT HANDS.⁵

Once upon a time there was an old doctor who used to rob graves so as to experiment on the bodies. So he happened to know of an old Irishman who died with a peculiar disease; and one night when people were busy and everything seemed favorable, he took his team and went

¹ Written by E. T. Sully in 1899.

² Compare JAFL 30 : 175.

³ Informant, Verna Turner of Hare Valley, Virginia.

⁴ Informant, Mary Jett of Phœbus.

⁵ Written by W. Young in 1899.

to the graveyard, got the body, and put it in his wagon. A young man who wanted to have some fun climbed in behind the wagon, and got under the seat with the coffin. The doctor stopped at almost every saloon and got something to drink, so as to steady his nerves. Very soon he was quite drunk. He also found a partner to ride with him. Every now and then he would feel to see if the corpse was all right. This fellow who was under the seat touched the doctor's hand every now and then. By and by the doctor mentioned it to his partner, and said, "Say, Mike! this fellow's hand is hot." The fellow who was under the seat said, "Yes, if you had been in hell as long as I have, your hands would be hot too."

73. CHAIR ON HIS HEAD.¹

Two Arishmen. One of them had been in America quite a while, and he knew about the deer. He took this new Arishman out with him, gave him a gun. He put him on a stand. He tol' him, he says, "The first thing you see comin' by here makin' high jumps," he says, "shoot him." Tol' him, "After you shoot him and sure you kill him, blow your horn." So pretty soon, while he was on the stand, a frawg runnin' out of the way of a snake came by, jumpin' as high as he could to get out of the way of the snake. This Arishman saw him, put up his gun and shot him, — shot him and blew his horn, blew his horn, blew his horn. The other feller didn't come for quite a while, seen the deer hadn' gotten there that quick. While he was there waitin' for the other Arishman to come, a real deer came runnin' by. He saw him, big thing, with a set of horns on his head. He ran out the way. So pretty soon afterwards the other Arishman came, said, "Did you get him, Pat?" — "Yes, by Jesus! I got him." Took him down there and showed him the frawg, said, "This isn't any deer, Pat. Did you see any deer comin' down here?" No, he hadn' seen any deer; said, "I saw somethin' comin' through here with a chair on his head, but I didn' see no deer."

74. THE DEER-STALKER.²

Up in the mountains of Virginia, in the days of slavery, a white man took one of his slaves with him deer-hunting. He told Jim (the Negro slave) to stand at the foot of the mountain while he went up with the hounds to chase the deer down, and when the deer came past to shoot it. Not long after Master ascended the mountain, the deer came past; but Jim was so very much astonished at the speed of the deer, he forgot to shoot. The hounds and Master followed close behind the deer; the

¹ Informant, Wesley D. Elam of Sussex County, Virginia. Compare Florida (JAFL 30 : 223); also Southern Workman, 28 (1899) : 194.

² Written by R. C. Lewis of Manassas, Va., in 1899. See Southern Workman, 28 : 199. Compare Florida (JAFL 30 : 223), Georgia (JAFL 32 : 370-371).

Master exclaiming, "Did he pass yer, Jim?" — "Yea, Sir Massey, he just done pass." — "Well, why didn't you shoot him?" — "'T worn't no use, Massey, 'cause, de way he was gwine when he passed here, he will butt his brains out 'gin a tree."

75. CLOCK RUNS DOWN.¹

Oncet they had a clock, and it had been runnin' a long time. So the clock stopped runnin', and they didn't know what was the matter. So one was named Mike; and he said to Ike to take the clock apart and see what was the matter. He found a bug inside. He said it couldn' run because the engineer was dead.

76. MOON CHEESE: IRISHMEN AT THE WELL.²

Once upon a time two Irishmen came to a well as they were travelling through the country one night. One of them happened to look down into a well, and saw the moon, which he took to be a cake of cheese. Calling the other, he said, "Faith, Pat, and, ma Jesus, here is a cake of cheese! How are we going to get it?" The other said, "Pat, you catch hold of the top of the well, and I will go down and catch hold of your feet, then we shall be able to reach the cheese." So these two went down, one hanging to the other's feet. The one at the top said, "Faith, Pat, and, ma Jesus, hold on, Pat! Let me spit on my hand and catch a fresh grip!" So he let go his hold to catch a fresh grip, and they both went tumbling down into the well. I do not know whether they got the cheese or not; the person that told the story to me said he left about that time.

77. BRICKS AND MORTAR.³

A feller asked an Arishman why did he put mortar between the bricks. An' the Arishman said, "To hold the bricks together." The feller said, "The mortar keeps the bricks apart."

78. ENGLISHMAN AND IRISHMAN.⁴

There was once two huntsmen, — an Englishman and an Irishman. One day they went hunting. Their success were two turkeys, — a real turkey and a turkey-buzzard. When the hunt was over, of course the Englishman thought he was the smartest man. He suggested how the game ought to be divided. He said, "Pat, I killed both the real

¹ Informant, Louise Man of Phœbus.

² Written by E. M. Evans in 1899. See *Southern Workman*, 28 : 193. Compare *Florida* (JAFL 30 : 222-223), *South Carolina* (MAFLS 16 : 117, No. 123). England and comparative: Clouston, 46-47, 49-53; Dähnhardt, 4 : 230.

³ Informant, Williams.

⁴ Written by Frances.

turkey and the buzzard; but you may take the turkey-buzzard, and I the turkey; or I'll take the turkey, and you the buzzard." — "Say that again," said Pat to Joe; and he said it again the same way. "You haven't said turkey to me the first nor the last, now I'll take the real turkey," said Pat to Joe, and leave the smart Englishman very sorrowful.

79. WATERMELON.¹

Once there were two Irishmen, and they bought a watermelon. So they sat down in a corner of a fence to eat it. On looking up, they saw two colored men peeping over the fence at them. One of them said, "Pat, let us eat the watermelon and give the poor niggers the guts!" So they ate the rind, and gave the poor niggers the melon.

80. MARE'S EGG.²

Once an Englishman sold an Irishman a goose-egg, and told him it was a mare-egg, and, if he would carry it home and put it under a setting hen, he would have a young colt in about three weeks' time. So away went the Irishman with his egg, and in getting over a fence he let his egg fall. When the egg fell, up jumped a rabbit. The Irishman did not know it was a rabbit, but thought it was a colt that had come out of the egg; and away he went running and whistling after his colt until the rabbit was out of sight.

81. MOTHER OF ALL THE TICKS.³

It was an Irishman, walking up a road, came upon a gold watch. He stopped and looked at it, and heard it *tickin'*. So he decided that mus' be the mother of all the ticks. He had trouble with the ticks. So he took his foot and stamped it all to pieces. Pretty soon he met a man looking for his watch. He asked him had he seen a watch in the road down there. He 'plied no, he hadn't seen no watch. So he kep' after him. So he said, no, he'd seen a big tick down there, must have been the mother of all the ticks. So he stamped down on the tick. That's all he had seen. He took the feller back there, and of course he found his watch.

82. THREE ENDS.⁴

Once there was a sea-captain who thought he would have some fun with one of his witty Irish sailors. The captain said to him, "Pat,

¹ Written by Lelia Gilbert in 1899. See *Southern Workman*, 28 : 193-194.

² Written by E. T. Sully in 1899. See *Southern Workman*, 28 : 192-193. Comparative, Clouston, 37-38.

³ Informant, Wesley D. Elam of Sussex County, Virginia. Compare *South Carolina (MAFLS 16 : 65)*. See also *Southern Workman*, 28 (1899) : 193.

⁴ Written by W. Young in 1899.

here is a piece of rope. If you find three ends to it, you can marry the best-looking of my daughters, and she is very beautiful." Pat took the rope, and studied and studied and studied for several days. He never even ate his meals, and the captain had a hard time trying to get him to work. At last Pat went to the captain and said that he had found three ends to the rope, and called the captain to the ship's side. He showed the captain both ends of the rope, and then threw it overboard, and said, "Faith, and there's the other end!"

83. STRING BEANS.¹

An Irish girl was told to have string beans for dinner. She asked her mistress for a needle. Her mistress asked what did she want it for. She answered, "And, in faith, how can I string the beans without a needle?"

84. YOU, NAITHER.²

There were once two Irish families living near each other; and as it is the custom of nearly every one to wash on Monday, one of these old Irish women thought that she would wash too. So she went to her neighbor, and said, "Faith, en is you gwine to use your wash-board this morning?" The reply was, "No, and you naither."

85. UNDERSTAND.³

Two Irishmen, Bill and Mike, were once working on a building. Bill was on the wall, laying brick; Mike was just below, mixing mortar. Just before throwing down some worthless brick, Bill hollowed to Mike to stand from under. Mike stepped to one side, but not far enough for Bill to see whether he had moved or not. Bill shouted again, "Do you understand?" — "No," said Mike, thinking that he meant if he stood under the wall. "You'd better understand, or you'll get hurt." Mike stepped beneath the pendulum. Just then the brick fell, and Mike was severely wounded.

86. LUMBER BUSINESS.⁴

Once an Irishman in this country sent to Ireland for his brother. He informed him of his extensive trade in the lumber business, and urged him to come at once. His brother spent most of his money to come to America. When he landed, he asked an officer to direct him to a certain street. On turning the corner of the street he was looking for, he saw his brother standing in front of a store peddling his lumber trade, selling matches.

¹ Written by Lutie Jarvis in 1899.

² Written by Araminta in 1899.

³ Written by Kendrick in 1899.

⁴ Written by Lee Gill in 1899.

87. YAH AND YEA.¹

Once upon a time an Irish boy and a Dutch boy were fussing over a piece of tough beef. The fuss got so great that they decided to each take an end in his mouth and pull for the prize. So they got an extra party to count three for a signal to begin pulling. As is known, when a Dutchman says "yes," he opens his mouth with "yah," and the Irishman says "yes" as "yea" through his teeth. When the extra party asked if they were ready, the Dutchman said, "Yah," and the Irishman held his teeth with "yea" on the stake, and therefore won.

88. JUDGMENT DAY.²

Uncle Sam and Pat were out hunting one night, when, about twelve o'clock, there came up a terrible storm. It grew worse, and there came a crack of lightning. Pat got up in the tree; but Uncle Sam thought the day of judgment was surely coming, and he knelt down and began to pray. He wanted Pat to pray, too; but Pat didn't believe in the day of judgment, and wouldn't. Then there came another crack of lightning, which made Pat drop out of the tree; and he fell down on his knees, too, and began to pray, "O Lord! if judgment day is coming, save my soul, if I've got one!"

89. COBBLE, COBBLE, COBBLE!

One day an Irishman was walking along by the farmyard; and when he came along, the old turkey called out, "Cobble, cobble, cobble, cobble, cobble!" But the Irishman didn't like it, and called back, "I'm no cobbler, but a good workman by trade."

90. SILVER DOLLAR.³

An Irishman came to this country, and, just after he landed, a friend took him over the town. He saw a silver dollar lying in the street, and was going to pick it up; but his friend told him not to do that, for he would find plenty of them lying about round the corner. So he believed it and went on; but when they got around the corner, his friend left him and went back to pick up the dollar, and the poor Irishman found no more.

91. TOAD-FROG.²

An Irishman was going along the road, and he met a colored man. The colored man asked him had he ever seen a snake. "Faith, I saw one just now coming along the road," said the Irishman; "but it was hopping so fast, and it didn't have any tail." It was only a toad-frog he had seen.

¹ Written by W. H. Young in 1899.

² Informant, W. T. Anderson. Recorded by A. M. Bacon in 1899.

³ Informant, R. R. Moton. Recorded by A. M. Bacon in 1899. Possibly this tale was suggested by the tale of "Playing Dead Twice in the Road" (*Folk-Lore*, 28 : 408).

92. GREEN IRISHMEN.¹

It is said that some one went down to Hades once, and there he saw the Devil, and the Devil showed him all around. He saw all kinds of people there in the fires, — the Germans and English and Japanese and Negroes, — but no Irishmen. So he asked the Devil how it was that he had no Irishmen; and the Devil said, "Oh, we have some here!" and he took him round to a place where the heat could strike, but there was no fire burning. When asked why they were not in with the others, the Devil said, "We are just drying them here; they are too green to burn now."

93. TRUNK.²

An Irishman was passing a Jew store; and the Jew said, "Walk in, sir, and let me sell you a trunk!" — "Faith," said the Irishman, "and what am I going to do with a trunk?" — "Why, put your clothes in it," the Jew said. "And will you have me go naked, then?" said Pat.

94. WHY SHINGLE?²

An Irishman was asked why he did not shingle his house. And he replied that when it rained, it was too wet to do so; and when it was dry, the house did not need it.

95. THREE MORE FOOLS: MR. HARD-TIMES.³

(*Version a.*)

An Irishman who had not been in this country very long, fell in love with an American girl; but the girl's father objected to her marrying him, because he was such a fool. He told the Irishman that if he would go off and find another such big fool, he might marry his daughter. So he went off looking for a fool; and he found a man who had moss all over the top of his house, and had put his cow up on the top of the house to eat off the moss. Then he found another man who didn't know how to get into a pair of trousers: so he hung them up in a tree, and climbed up and jumped down into them.⁴

Another man brought some money that he had saved up for a long time to his wife, and said, "Put this money away for hard times; and when Mr. Hard-Times comes, you give that money to him, and not

¹ Informant, R. R. Moton. Recorded by A. M. Bacon in 1899.

² Informant, W. T. Anderson. Recorded by A. M. Bacon in 1899.

³ Informant, R. R. Moton. Recorded by A. M. Bacon. See *Southern Workman*, 28 : 230-232. Compare Bahamas (MAFLS 13 : 93-94). Comparative: Clouston, 191-204; Bolte u. Polívka, LIX.

⁴ This is a long story, not always told of an Irishman. Another incident in Mr. Hard-Times's story is where the man comes to a house where the moon is shining in brightly, and the whole family is scrubbing the house to get off the moonshine.

to any one else." But some one out of doors who wanted to get the money heard their conversation; and when the husband had gone, he knocked on the door. The woman went to the door, and said, "Good-morning! Who are you?" The man said, "I am John Hard-Times." She said, "Oh, you must be the man my husband meant for me to give the money to!" and the man said yes, he was. So she went and got the money which she had put away very carefully, and gave it to him, and he went off. When her husband returned and heard what she had done, he was much disturbed, of course, and said to her, "All right! Pull the door behind you, and come and find the man." And he started off; and she takes the door off the hinges and drags it behind her, and he looks back and sees her. Well, finally they find Mr. Hard-Times and get the money back; and finally, I believe, he kills her, she is so stupid.

So the young man finds out all these fools; and, as it turns out, the old man is the biggest fool of all, and the young fellow marries his daughter.

(Version b: Three More Fools.)

An Irishman lived in an old house; and there was considerable moss on the roof of the house, and he wanted his cow to eat the moss, so he tied a rope round her head and began to pull her up. Some one who was passing called out to him, "Why, don't do that! You'll kill the cow! What are you doing that for?" The Irishman said he wanted her to eat the moss. "Well, why don't you pull it off and throw it down to her?" the man said; and the Irishman said he hadn't thought of that.

96. PAMELANCE.¹

'Bout a boy named Pamelance. His mother sent him to his aunty's, an' she gave him some butter; an' he put the butter up in his hat, an' it melted all down over his face. And when he got home, his mother said, "Lord-dee mussy, Pamelance! What dat you got dere, boy?" He said, "Butter, mammy." — "Don'tcher know dat's not de way to carry butter? You ought to take it and put it in a leaf, and take it to the water an' cool it an' cool it an' cool it." So the next day he went to his aunty's, she gave him a little puppy; and he took it to the water and cooled it and cooled it and cooled it 'til it died; an' then he brought it home. His mother said, "Lord-dee mussys, Pamelance! What dat you got dere, boy?" — "Dawg, mammy." — "Don'tcher know dat's not de way ter carry a dawg? You oughter take it and tie a little string around it, and let the dawg walk home." So the next day he went to his aunty's, she gave him a loaf of bread. An' he took it and tied a string around it, and pulled it home. And when he got

¹ Informant, Verna Turner of Hare Valley, Virginia. Compare Porto Rico (JAFL 34 : 156). Comparative, Clouston, 123-126.

home, his mother said, "Lord-dee mussy, Pamelance! What dat you got dere, boy?" So the next day he went there, his aunty gave him a cake. An' he took the cake and mashed it all up in his hand, and brought it home; and his mother asked him what did he have. He tol' her he had some cake. She tol' him that wasn' the way to carry cake, said she wasn' goin' to send him to his aunty's any mo'.

97. WHO FILLS THE PENITENTIARIES?¹

Once an Irishman was making a grand speech, and crying out, "Who puts up all the fine buildings? — The Irish. And who puts up the court-houses? — The Irish. And who builds the State penitentiaries? — The Irish. And who fills them? — The Irish, begobs!"

98. PUNISHMENT AFTER DEATH.¹

Once an Irishman was going along through a desperate piece of woods, when along came a panther. He struck it and killed it, but continued to beat it, and was pounding it to jelly when another man came along and asked what he was doing that for. "Don't you see it's dead?" — "Yes," said Pat, "but I want to show him that there's punishment after death."

99. BEATING DEAD DOG.¹

A dog attacked an Irishman; and he took a stick and beat him to death, and kept on beating. Some one asked him why he did that when the dog was dead. "Faith, he may be dead," he said, "but he doesn't know it."

100. WHERE'S MR. MCGINNIS?¹

They say that the Irish laborers never work so faithfully as when the train is coming, because often the railroad-inspectors are on the train, and they notice if they leave off work too soon. Once a workingman was killed by working too long when the train was coming; and the foreman said to an Irishman there, "Go and tell Mrs. McGinnis that her husband was killed by the train." Pat started off quickly; but the foreman called him back, and said, "Tell it to her gently." Pat hurried to the house, and said to the woman, "O Mrs. McGinnis! where's Mr. McGinnis?" — "Down on the railroad working," said Mrs. McGinnis. "You're a liar," said Pat, "he's dead."

101. THE LORD'S FAMILY.¹

An Irishman went to a Quaker's meeting one night, and sat there, and no one said anything. At last one got up, and said, "I feel like

¹ Informant, R. R. Moton. Recorded by A. M. Bacon in 1899.

I was married," and sat down again. After a while some one else got up, and said, "Who you feel like you was married to?" and sat down. By and by the first one got up, and said, "I feel like I was married into the Lord's family." Then the Irishman got up, and said, "I'm afraid you will never see your father-in-law."

102. HORSE AND CART.¹

An Irishman used to go to town and get drunk; and sometimes, when in that condition, he couldn't find his horse. Once when he did this, some boys took his horse and left a cart in its place. When the Irishman came along, he didn't know what to think of it. And he said, "If this is me, I've lost a horse; and if it isn't me, I've found a cart."

103. WHO STRUCK PATRICK?¹

Two men got fighting. They were about the same size; and an Irishman came up, and asked in a loud voice, "Who struck Bill Patrick?" No one answered; and he asked again, "Who struck Bill Patrick?" A great big man stepped up; and the Irishman said quickly, "Faith, you gave him a hell of a licking."

104. MISSING WORD.¹

Two Irishmen got into a prize-fight; and when one wanted to give up, he was to say a certain word. Well, they fought and fought and fought and fought; and they both wanted to stop, but couldn't think of the word. Finally one thought of it; and the other said, "Bejabers, I'm glad you thought of it, for I've been trying to for a long time, and couldn't."

105. CORN IN THE EAR.¹

An old man had been driving a pair of mules; and he gave them to an Irishman, and told him at twelve o'clock to give the mules "twelve (y)ears of corn in the (y)ear." At noon he went out, and saw the man shelling up a little of the corn at a time, and trying to pour it into the mule's ears. He called out, "How's this? I told you to give it to them in the ears?" The Irishman said, "Well, I'm trying to give it to them in the ears, but they won't take it."

106. WHICH WAY DOES THE ROAD GO?¹

Some one asked an Irishman, "Which way does this road go?" — "Faith, I've been living here twenty years, and it's never gone

¹ Recorded by A. M. Bacon in 1899.

anywhere yet." Another person asked him how his potatoes turned out. "Faith, they didn't turn out at all, I had to dig them out." When some one who wanted a drink asked if he had any spirits about his house, he said, "You dumb fool! do you think my house is haunted?"

107. SPREEING.¹

Two Irishmen went into the great city of Richmond soon after coming to this country, and concluded they would go on a spree: so they bought a cigarette and divided it in halves, and got five cents' worth of peanuts. One said, "Pat, if our wives could know how we was spreeing, wouldn't they wape?"

108. CURLY TAIL AND STRAIGHT TAIL.¹

Two men, one an Irishman, testing their strength, got into a pen of hogs. The one who should throw out the most hogs was to win the bet, and both were blindfolded. Whenever the other man threw out a hog, the Irishman would pretend he threw one out too. At last there was only one little pig left with a straight tail; and the Irishman threw it out, and said, "Every pig that I threw out, I gave his tail a curl." And so there was only the one little straight-tailed pig that the other man could claim.

109. TO TORMENT ALREADY.²

Said a white sergeant and a white corporal and himself died and went to heaven. Said, of course, the sergeant was in front, and the corporal behind, and he in the rear of all. Sergeant went up to St. Peter's gate, and St. Peter asked him what was he doing there. Said he came to heaven. St. Peter asked him, "What have you done to be permitted to the Kingdom of Heaven?" Said he'd been over the top sev'el times and killed sev'el Germans. So St. Peter told him, said, "I'm sorry, but you ain't done enough to be admitted to the Kingdom of Heaven." So he sent him to Torment. So up went the corporal. He asked the corporal what he'd done to deserve the right to the Kingdom of Heaven. He told him he had captured a machine-gun, won a *croix de guerre* and a distinguished service-cross. So he told him he was sorry, but he couldn't be permitted on that. This time the colored feller walked up; and he said, "I walked up and told St. Peter the truth. Asked me what I'd done to be admitted. I tol' him I'd been down there at Brest for the last eighteen months in a stevedore regi-

¹ Informant, R. R. Moton. Recorded by A. M. Bacon in 1899.

² Informant, Wesley D. Elam of Sussex County, Virginia.

ment. He tol' me, "Come on up, John! You been to Torment already."

110. OFFICERS ONLY.¹

Soldier said that in France he went to a café, ordered a drink. By the time the waitress had brought him a drink, in walked a M.P. [Military Police], and told him this place was for officers only. So he went down the street to another café and ordered another drink; and in walked another M.P., who told him it was for officers only. He stopped; he said to himself that he 'fraid that the next time there'll be a war, it'll be for officers only.

111. RANK.¹

'Bout a colored private doing guard-duty. When he firs' went to camp, sergeant had entire charge of him, knew nothing about any other officers. Considered sergeant highest man in the army. One night sergeant said, "Have you seen the colonel anywhere 'round here to-night?" — "No, I haven' seen any colonel." He was gone for few minutes, came back again. "Have you seen the colonel 'round here?" — "No, I haven' seen any colonel." Little later an officer came up to him. He hollered to him. "Is that the way you salute an officer? I'm the colonel of this post." He brought his gun down to present. Said, "You the colonel of this post? You better go to that guard-house and see the sergeant. He's been looking for you all night. He'll give you the devil when he sees you."

112. NO EXTRA EXPENSE.¹

Some feller got some one to read his letter and answer. Came to commandant, asked for a stamp; said, "Give me a red one, last time I sent a brown one." Commandant said, "If you want a red one, must pay extra." — "Give me a brown one, then, 'cause I don't want to go to no extra expense for that gal."

113. IN THE CAMP READING-ROOM.¹

Feller in camp, couldn't read or write. He passed through the reading-room, and he was holdin' a letter upside down. The secretary asked him, "Can't you read writin'?" — "Can't read readin' first."

114. LENGTH OF SERVICE.¹

Pat and Mike were in the army. They were asked how long they was in it. Said, there as long as they couldn' get out.

¹ Informant, Wesley D. Elam of Sussex County, Virginia.

RIDDLES (1920).

1. Whitey sent Whitey to drive Whitey out of Whitey. — *Ans.* A white man sent a white dog to drive a white rabbit out of a white cotton-patch.¹

(*Variant.*) White driving white out of a white cotton-field. — *Ans.* A dog driving sheep out of a cotton-field.

2. Goes up white and comes down yellow. — *Ans.* Egg.²

3. Goes all around the house in the day-time, and sits up in the corner at night. — *Ans.* A broom.³

(*Variants.*) (1) What work all day long, an' stay in the corner at night; (2) All round the house, and never come in. — *Ans.* A broom-handle.

4. Can run, but can't walk. — *Ans.* A train.

5. Can holler, but can't talk. — *Ans.* A train.

6. Deep as a cup,
 Round as an apple,⁴
 All the king's horses⁵
 Can't pull it up.

Ans. A well.⁶

7. If he comes, I no come. If he no come, I come. — *Ans.* A farmer planting corn. If the crows come, it will ruin his crop, then the corn will not come; but if the crows don't come, his crop will come.

8. Up and down, up and down,
 Never touches the sky nor ground.
 Ans. Pump-handle.

9. Black within,
 Red within,
 Four corners all round about.
 Ans. Chimney.⁷

(*Variant.*)

Four sides,
Black inside,
Red inside.

¹ Compare JAF^L 32 : 375 (No. 3), 388 (No. 1), 439 (No. 4); 34 : 34 (No. 66), 87 (No. 52); MAF^{LS} 16 : 152 (No. 2).

² Compare JAF^L 34 : 34 (No. 64); MAF^{LS} 16 : 165 (No. 75).

³ Compare JAF^L 30 : 204 (No. 25); 32 : 390 (No. 23); 34 : 30 (No. 39).

⁴ *Variant:* Biscuit.

⁵ *Variant:* Little King's horses.

⁶ Compare JAF^L 30 : 201 (No. 1); 32 : 389 (No. 16); 34 : 27 (No. 13); MAF^{LS} 16 : 156 (No. 28).

⁷ Compare JAF^L 30 : 206 (No. 52); 34 : 29 (No. 29).

10. A houseful,
A yardful,
Can't ketch a spoonful.¹

Ans. Smoke.²

11. A hillful,
A bowlful,
An' can't ketch a bowlful.

Ans. Mist.

12. All round the house an' make but one track. — *Ans.* Wheelbarrow.³

13. Walkin' over the water,
And never touching the water.

Ans. A lady walking on the bridge,
with a tub of water on her
head.⁴

(*Variant.*)

Above water
'Low water.

Ans. Woman with a pail of water
on her head walkin' over a
bridge.

14. In the water,
Out of the water,
Never touch the water.

Ans. { Egg in the shell.
Nail in bottom of ship.

15. In the water,
On top the water,
Out the water,
But does not touch the water.

Ans. Egg inside of a 'duck.

16. As I was going over London Bridge,
I met a London scholar;
He tipped his hat an' drew his cane,
And in this riddle I call his name.

Ans. Andrew.⁵

¹ *Variants:* (1) Still I can't get a bowlful; (2) Yet you can't get a thimbleful.

² Compare JAF^L 30 : 201 (No. 3); 34 : 26 (No. 8); MAFLS 16 : 153 (No. 6).

³ Compare JAF^L 30 : 202 (No. 9); 32 : 390 (No. 24); 34 : 29 (No. 30).

⁴ This riddle is printed in a collection of Conundrums, Riddles and Puzzles published in Philadelphia in 1904. Several riddles given in this collection were recited by the school-children, most of which I have not included. Riddle No. 12, whether drawn from this collection or not, has an established circulation. Compare JAF^L 30 : 206 (No. 49); 34 : 31 (No. 47).

⁵ Given in Conundrums, Riddles and Puzzles. Compare JAF^L 34 : 37 (No. 87), 84 (No. 17).

(Variant.)

A man walking over London Bridge,
An' drew off his hat.

Ans. His name Andrew.

17. Two legs sit on three legs;
In come four legs,
Grabs up one leg;
Up got two legs,
An' made four legs
Bring that one leg back.

Ans. Man sitting on a chair.
Dog came in, ham lay down;
dog got it, made bring back.¹

(Variant.)

Two legs sittin' on three legs,
With one leg in his lap;
Up come four legs,
Snatch one leg;
Two legs threw three legs at four legs
To make four legs bring one leg back.

Ans. Man sitting on three-legged
stool, with ham in his lap,
etc.

18. Little red house
With white fence all round it,
Door keep opening and shutting.

Ans. Tongue and teeth.

19. Something that has a white ivory fence. — *Ans.* Teeth.

20. Went out on two legs
An' come back on four legs.

Ans. A man on two legs came
back sitting in a chair.

21. There's a being that first goes on four, next on two, next on three. What is it? — *Ans.* Man.

22. Go out in the fields in the day-time, and come and sit up on the table at night. — *Ans.* Milk.²

23. Hamsie Dumphy sat on a wall,
Hamsie Dumphy had a great fall.
All the king's horses
An' all the king's men
Can't put Hamsie Dumphy together again.

Ans. Egg.³

¹ Compare JAFL 34 : 34 (No. 62); MAFLS 16 : 163 (No. 61).

² Compare JAFL 34 : 31 (No. 41).

³ Compare JAFL 30 : 206 (No. 51); 34 : 25 (No. 4); MAFLS 16 : 165 (No. 74).

34. What goes through the wood
An' never touches a limb?
Ans. Voice.¹

35. Old woman had so many children, she didn' know what to do. —
Ans. That was hen. She had so many chickens, she couldn' sit on them.

36. If you feed it, it will live;
If you give it water, it will die.
Ans. Fire.²

37. What goes 'round
An' makes a thousand tracks?
Ans. A broom.

38. Eleven pears was hangin' high,
Eleven mans go riding by,
Each take a pear.
Ans. Eleven man had the
name of Eleven.³

(*Variant.*)

Seven pears hanging on a tree,
Seven men came passin' by,
Each man took a pear,
And left six hangin' there.
Ans. All seven men took pear.

39. Take one hawg-foot bone and lay it at the door, an' it'll be all men's door. — *Ans.* Court-house door.⁴

40. Hickamor hackamor,
On the king's kitchen door,
All the king's horses
And all the king's men
Can't pull Hickamor, Hackamor,
Off the king's kitchen door.
Ans. Sun.⁵

41. The longer you cut it,
The longer it grows.
Ans. Ditch.⁶

¹ Compare MAFLS 16 : 156 (No. 27).

² Compare JAFL 34 : 36 (No. 79).

³ Compare JAFL 30 : 202 (No. 13); 32 : 375 (No. 4); 34 : 32 (No. 55); 86 (No. 39).

⁴ Compare JAFL 34 : 30 (No. 36). Recorded at Hampton (Southern Workman, March, 1894) as, "There are bones enough in a hog's foot to lay at every man's door in the country.—*Ans.* The court-house is every man's door in the country."

⁵ Compare JAFL 34 : 29 (No. 26); MAFLS 16 : 161 (No. 52).

⁶ Compare JAFL 32 : 389 (No. 13).

42. Little Miss Nannicoat
Had a long petticoat.
The longer she stands,
The shorter she grows.
Ans. Candle.¹

43. Between the earth,
Between the sky,
Not on a tree.
Now, I've told you,
Now, you tell me.
Ans. Knot on the tree.²

44. Dead in the middle,
'Live at each end.
Ans. Horse, plough, and a man.³

45. What kind of a husband would you advise a young woman to get? — *Ans.* A single man, and leave the married man alone.⁴

46. As I was goin' to my Whilly Whicka Whackum,
I met Bum Backum.
I called Jim Whackum
To run Bum Backum
Out of my Whilly Whicka Whackum.
Ans. As I was going through my garden,
I met a rabbit, and I called to my
dog to run him out.⁵

47. What is that that the President has seen and the Lord has never seen? — *Ans.* A man to equal himself.⁶

¹ Compare JAFL 30 : 202 (No. 19), 275 (No. 5); 32 : 440 (No. 20); 34 : 24 (No. 1); 110 (No. 2); MAFLS 16 : 169 (No. 111).

² Compare JAFL 30 : 205 (No. 40); 34 : 33 (No. 58).

³ Compare JAFL 30 : 201 (No. 6); 32 : 388 (No. 4); 34 : 36 (No. 77); MAFLS 16 : 155 (No. 17); also Galla (Harvard African Studies, 3 : 198, No. 3).

⁴ Compare JAFL 34 : 37 (No. 90).

⁵ Compare JAFL 34 : 34 (No. 67); MAFLS 16 : 152 (No. 3). Recorded at Hampton (Southern Workman, March, 1894) as,—

"As I went across my Whirly-Whicka-Whackum,
I met Tom Tackum
And called Bom Backum
To drive Tom Tackum
Out of my Whirly-Whicka-Whackum.

Ans. Whirly-Whicka-Whackum is a field. Tom
Tackum is a horse. Bom Backum is a dog."

Possibly "Master of all Masters" (Jacobs, English Fairy Tales) is the source of this riddle-tale.

⁶ Compare JAFL 30 : 207 (No. 56).

48. As I was in my chamber,
I heard something fall.
I sent my maid to pick it up,
But she couldn't pick it up at all.
Ans. Snuff.
49. The cat, the goose, and the bee,
The world is ruled by these three.
Who are they? What is it?
Ans. Parchment, pen, and wax.
50. Round as a rainbow,
Teef (teeth) like a cat,
Think of many things
Before you think of that.
Ans. Brier.¹
51. Mouth like a barn-door,
Ears like a kyat,
Guess all night,
And can't guess that.
Ans. Owl.²
52. He wears a hat
Stuck on his neck
Because he has no head,
And many times his hat comes off
When we are sick in bed.
Ans. A bottle of medicine.
53. As I was going 'cross London Bridge,
I met Sis Sally Ann.
She was drunk, and I was sober,
So I kicked her over.
Ans. A bottle of whiskey.³

(*Variants.*)

- (1) As I was goin' up London Bridge,
I met my sister Nancy.
I cut off her head and drank her blood,
And left her body standin'.

Ans. Bottle of wine.⁴

¹ Compare JAF^L 30 : 204 (No. 32); 34 : 35 (No. 74).

² Compare JAF^L 30 : 204 (No. 33).

³ Compare JAF^L 30 : 277 (No. 20); 32 : 375 (No. 6); 34 : 24 (No. 2); MAF^LS 16 : 159-160 (No. 46).

⁴ Recorded at Hampton (Southern Workman, March, 1894) as,—

“As I was going along one day,
I met my sister Ann.
I wrung her neck and sucked her blood,
And let her body stan'.”

- (2) As I was going 'cross London Bridge,
I met old Sally Gray.
I sucked her blood an' ate her meat,
An' threw her skin away.

Ans. Watermelon.¹

54. This is a joke I was fooled by:
Which must I say,
The yolk of a egg *is* white,
Or the yolk of a egg *are* white?

Ans. I'm not to say either, because
the yolk of an egg is yellow.

55. Long stick,
Black feller,
Pull his cock,
And hear him beller.

Ans. Gun.²

56. What goes to a spring and never drinks? — *Ans.* Path.³

57. Mention a thing has two heads,
Two feet, one each side, four the other,
And one tail?

Ans. Lady on horseback.

58. A riddle, a riddle, as I suppose,
A hundred eyes, and never a nose.

Ans. Sifter.⁴

59. Two lookers,
Two crookers,
Four standers,
One switch about.

Ans. Cow.⁵

60. A thousand eyes,
But yet can't see.

Ans. A cinder-sifter.⁶

61. What runs all the way from San Francisco to New York without moving? — *Ans.* Railroad-track.

¹ Recorded at Hampton (Southern Workman, March, 1894) as,—

"As I was walking in the field,
I met old Father Gray.
I ate his meat and drank his blood,
And threw his hide away."

² Compare JAFI 30 : 202 (No. 18); 34 : 36 (No. 80).

³ Compare JAFI 32 : 389 (No. 7); 34 : 26 (No. 9, *variant* 2).

⁴ Compare JAFI 34 : 28 (No. 21).

⁵ Compare JAFI 30 : 201 (No. 7); (MAFLS 16 : 154 (No. 15).

⁶ Compare JAFI 34 : 28 (No. 21).

62. Why is a hen on a fence like a penny? — *Ans.* Because the head on one side, and the tail on the other.

63. I made a three-legged stool, and how many sit on it? — *Ans.* One man named More Yet.¹

64. What goes all down street and comes back home, and sits in the corner and waits for a bone? — *Ans.* Shoes.²

65. What's the difference between a mountain and a hill? — *Ans.* No difference, a hill is a young mountain.

66. Two men heard of a job,
And both of them wanted a job;
And they got to fighting,
And kill each other,
And who will get the job?

Ans. Undertaker.

67. Round as a apple,
Busy as a bee,
Pretties' little thing
I ever did see.

Ans. Watch.³

68. Why is a roomful of married women similar to an empty room? — *Ans.* Because there's not a single one in there.

69. Why do sailors wear their trousers large at the bottom? — *Ans.* Because they're made that way.

70. A Indian man first time in town see a white man riding. A white man is lazy: he walks while he is sitting down. — *Ans.* White man was riding a bicycle.

71. What makes the clock look 'shamed? — *Ans.* Because he got his hands over his face.

72. A man rode, but yet he walked. — *Ans.* A man ridin' across the bridge, and had dog named But Yet.⁴

73. Why is an egg and a colt so much alike? — *Ans.* Because both of 'em have to be broke.

74. Why is a policeman and a rainbow so much alike? — *Ans.* Because he never turns up until after the storm.

75. What's that?
I haven't got it.
I would not have it.
If I had it,
I wouldn' take the world for it.

Ans. Bald head.⁵

¹ Compare JAFL 32 : 375 (No. 5).

² Compare JAFL 32 : 389 (No. 9); 34 : 31 (No. 40).

³ Compare JAFL 30 : 201 (No. 2); 32 : 389 (No. 17); 34 : 28 (No. 17).

⁴ Compare JAFL 30 : 202 (No. 17); 34 : 25 (No. 6).

⁵ Compare JAFL 30 : 204 (No. 34); 32 : 389 (No. 14).

76. "Now, see here!
Timothy Tit Con's wife is dead, poor thing!"
Which is proper,
I *is* crazy or I *am* crazy?
Ans. The one that'll answer say "I am crazy."

(*Variant.*)

Which is the properest,
I *am* a fool, or I *is* a fool?
Ans. You are a fool.

77. Once in a man,
Twice in a moment,
What is not once in a thousand years?
Ans. Letter M.¹

78. As I was goin' up heeple steeple,
I met some Christian people;
Some were nickle, and some were nackle,
And some were the color of brown terbacker.
Ans. Partridge.²

79. If two pigs come to five dollars, what will a hawg come to? —
Ans. Corn.

80. Where is the first place you hit a nail? — *Ans.* On the head.

81. Why does the sun rise in the east? — *Ans.* Because yeast will rise anything.

82. What is two things flapping and one going in and out? — *Ans.*
A hawg with his ears flapping and his nose going in and out.

83. What kin is a child to his father when he's not his son? — *Ans.*
His daughter.

84. How many cow's tails will it take to reach the sky? — *Ans.*
One, if it was long enough.³

85. Why is a dirty boy like flannel? — *Ans.* Because it shrinks
when it's washed.⁴

86. Man who made it didn' use it,
The man who bought it didn' want it,
The man who used it didn' know it.
Ans. Coffin.⁵

¹ Compare JAFL 34 : 83 (No. 3).

² Compare JAFL 30 : 202 (No. 10); 32 : 390 (No. 20); MAFLS 16 : 163 (No. 62).
Recorded at Hampton (Southern Workman, March, 1894) as,—

"As I went down by Heeple Steeple,
There I met a heap of people;
Some were nick, and some were nacky,
Some were color of brown terbacky.

Ans. Bees."

³ Compare JAFL 34 : 84 (No. 11).

⁴ Given in Conundrums, Riddles and Puzzles.

⁵ Compare MAFLS 16 : 173 (No. 160).

87. Goes to the well three times a day, and never drinks. — *Ans.* Bridle.

88. Up to the house an' never come in. — *Ans.* Path.¹

(*Variant.*) What is it that goes all around the house and never comes in? — *Ans.* Path.

89. Buffy fluffy on the land,
 Two pink pillars on which to stand.

Ans. A hen with pink feet.

90. Go all around the house and put a white sheet in the window. — *Ans.* Snow.

91. Two ducks in front of two ducks,
 Two ducks behind two ducks,
 Two ducks between two ducks,
 How many ducks?

Ans. Four.²

92. What is the difference between a school-boy and a postage-stamp? — *Ans.* One you stick with a lick, one you lick with a stick.

93. Nib nib noddy,
 Two [y]ears and one body.

Ans. Barrel.³

94. Brass button,
 Blue coat,
 Can't catch a billy-goat.

Ans. Policeman.

95. On the hill sits a gréen house,
 In the green house sits a white house,
 In the white house sits a red house,
 In the red house sits a black house.

Ans. Watermelon.⁴

(*Variants.*)

(1) On the hill there's a green house,
 In that green house there's a white house,
 In that white house there's a red house,
 In that red house are a lot of little black and white men.

Ans. Watermelon.

(2) A lot of little black children
 Live in a red house.

Ans. Watermelon.⁵

¹ Compare JAFL 30 : 202 (No. 12); 32 : 390 (No. 25); 34 : 26 (No. 9); MAFLS 16 : 155 (No. 23).

² Compare JAFL 34 : 84 (No. 20), 110 (No. 6); MAFLS 16 : (No. 15).

³ Recorded at Hampton (Southern Workman, March, 1894) as,—

“Bulgy and knotty.

Two heads and one body.”

⁴ Compare Cape Verde Islands (MAFLS 15 [pt. 2] : 215-216, No. 1).

⁵ Compare JAFL 32 : 388 (No. 2).

96. Green rind,
 Red meat,
 Full of syrup,
 Hard to beat.
 Ans. Watermelon.

97. On the hill there's a house,
 In that house there's a closet,
 In that closet hangs a coat,
 In that coat is a pocket, and
 In that pocket there's an Indian head.
 Ans. A penny.

98. Green within green,
 Seven doors within the seam.
 Ans. Green house with green
 graves around it, and
 seven doors.

99. Red outside,
 White inside.
 Ans. Apple.¹

100. What is the difference between a sailor and the letter *d*? —
Ans. They both follow the *c*.

101. Black as a coal,
 Slick as a mole,
 Red along tail,
 And busted hole.
 Ans. Frying-pan.²

102. Long legs,
 Short thighs,
 Bald head,
 And no eyes.
 Ans. Tongs.³

103. Higher than the house,
 Higher than the tree,
 Oh, what can this little thing be?
 Ans. { Sky.
 { Star.⁴

104. Whitey went upstairs,
 Whitey came downstairs,
 Whitey left whitey upstairs.
 Ans. A hen went upstairs,
 and laid a egg (aigg).⁵

¹ Compare MAFLS 16 : 166.

² Compare JAFL 34 : 28 (No. 19).

³ Compare JAFL 30 : 201 (No. 4); 34 : 28 (No. 23).

⁴ Compare JAFL 30 : 276 (No. 9); 34 : 29 (No. 27); MAFLS 16 : 159 (No. 42).

⁵ Compare JAFL 30 : 204 (No. 29); 32 : 388 (No. 1); 34 : 25 (No. 5).

105. Ippie ippie upstairs,
Ippie ippie downstairs,
If you don't watch out,
Ippie ippie'll bite yer.
*Ans. Wasp.*¹
106. Ol' Mother Twichet
Had but one eye
An' a long tail;
Dat she let fly.
An' ev'y time
She went thro' a gap,
I bite off her tail,
She lef' in the crack.
*Ans. Needle.*²
107. Black we are, but much admired;
Men seek for us until they're tired;
We tire the horses, but comfort man.
Tell me this riddle if you can.
*Ans. Coal.*³
108. As I went through the garden gap,
Who could I meet but Dick Redcap,
A stick in his hand, and a stone in his throat.
Tell me this riddle, I'll give you a goat.⁴
*Ans. Cherry.*⁵
109. Flower of Virginia,
Fruit of Spain,
Met together in a shower of rain.
Put in a bag,
Tie it up with a string.
Tell me this riddle, I'll give you a pin.
*Ans. Plum pudding.*⁵
110. As I was going somewhere,
I saw a ship come sailin'.
It was loaded with people.
As I drew near,
I didn't see a single person.
Ans. They were all married.

¹ Compare JAFL 30 : 206 (No. 50); 32 : 389 (No. 11); 34 : 27 (No. 12).

² Given in a school-reader, *Work and Play with Language*, by Robbins and Row. Compare JAFL 34 : 110 (No. 3).

³ Compare JAFL 34 : 85 (No. 22).

⁴ This riddle was told to me several times, and the "groat" of the original was always rendered "goat."

⁵ Learned from a book. Compare JAFL 34 : 85 (No. 24).

111. As I was goin' up London Bridge,
I met three living people,
They were neither men, women or children.
Ans. Was a man, a woman, and a child.¹

112. Big at the bottom,
Little at the top,
In the middle go flippity flop.
Ans. Churn.²

113. Thirty white horses 'pon a red hill,
Now they tramp, now they champ,
Now they stand still.
Ans. Teeth and gums.³

114. What is that all young misses look for and don't wish to find? —
Ans. Hole in stocking.

115. Why is a black hen greater than a white hen? — *Ans.* Because
a black hen can lay a white egg, and a white hen can't lay a black egg.

116. There was a man of Adam's race
Had a certain dwelling-place,
Not in heaven, not in hell,
Not on earth where human dwell.
Ans. Jonah in the whale's belly.⁴

117. When does a dawg wear the mos' clothes, — in winter, or summer? — *Ans.* In summer, because he wears a coat, and pants.

118. Why does a hen cross a road? — *Ans.* To get on the other side.

119. Black an' white an' red all over. — *Ans.* Newspaper.⁵

120. I had a little sister
They call Peep Peep;
She wades the water
Deep, deep, deep;
She climbs the mountain
High, high, high.
Poor little thing
Has but one eye.
Ans. Star.⁶

121. Oncet a man had a goose, a fox, and a bag of corn to carry across
the river in a boat. He couldn' leave the fox with the goose, because
the fox would eat the goose. He couldn' leave the goose with the corn,

¹ Compare JAFL 34 : 85 (No. 23).

² Compare JAFL 30 : 202 (No. 16); 32 : 390 (No. 21); 34 : 34 (No. 63); MAFLS 16 : 157 (No. 34).

³ Compare JAFL 34 : 25 (No. 3, *variant* 1).

⁴ Compare JAFL 34 : 83 (No. 8).

⁵ Compare JAFL 30 : 201 (No. 8); 34 : 31 (No. 44), 88 (No. 67).

⁶ Compare JAFL 30 : 206 (No. 53).

because the goose would eat the corn. He could only carry one at a time. How did he take them over? — *Ans.* He carried over the goose and left the goose over, and came back and got the corn and carried the goose back. He carried the fox over and went back and got the goose.¹

122. A man had twenty sick sheep (sounds like twenty-six). One died. How many did he have left? — *Ans.* Nineteen² (but the guesser will most always say twenty-five).

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123. White told White to take White and run White out of White.³

124. Two big biscuits, one cup of coffee,
Gwine to Augusta black and dirty.
Ans. Locomotive.

125. "Fry me some eggs, fry me some eggs!" —
"Got no lard, got no lard!" —
"Tallow will do, tallow will do." —
"Cloddy land, cloddy land." —
"Plough it deep, plough it deep!" —
"Muddy de water, muddy de water!"
Ans. A pond full of green frogs
talking to themselves.
When the sixth frog says
"Muddy de water," he see
his enemy, they all dis-
appear.

126. As I was walking out one day,
I saw a wonderful thing.
'Twas not in the earth,
'Twas not in the sky,
'Twas (k)not in a tree.
Where could this wonderful thing be?
Ans. In a tree.⁴

127. Green Morocco built a ship,
An' he built it for his daughter,
An' I've told her name three times,
An' I'm ashamed to tell three times over.
Ans. Her name was Ann.

128. Travels round the fields all day,
Comes home at night and sits under the bed.
Ans. The farmer's shoes.⁵

¹ Compare JAFL 32 : 375 (No. 1); MAFLS 16 : 161 (No. 56).

² Compare JAFL 34 : 36 (No. 85), 84 (No. 18); MAFLS 16 : 175 (No. 187).

³ See No. 1.

⁴ See No. 43.

⁵ See No. 3.

129. Clink, clank, under the bank,
 Ten against four.

Ans. The cow being milked.

130. As I was going across London Bridge,
 I heard an old man give a squall.
 His head was bald, his bill was — (?),¹
 Such an old man never was born.

Ans. An owl.

131. Black on black, and black on brown,
 Three legs up, and six legs down.

Ans. A black man on a brown horse, with a
 black pot upside down on his head.²

132. Up chip cherry, down chip cherry,
 Many man in jerry
 Can climb chip cherry.

Ans. The sun.³

133. Hitty titty in the house,
 Hitty titty out of doors,
 Nary man can catch hitty titty.

Ans. Smoke.

134. Nine cows had ten calves, and nary one had two. — *Ans.* One cow's name was Nary One.

135. I love love, love can't love me;
 I feel love, but love can't feel me.

Ans. A man who committed a crime had to get up a riddle that no one could tell, if he would save his life. He killed his dog, whose name was Love, and put a piece of him in his pocket; then, with his hand in his pocket touching the piece of the dog, he gave out this riddle. No one could guess it. His life was saved.⁴

136. If he come, he no come.
 If he no come, he come.

Ans. Planted corn. If the crow come,
 corn no come.⁵

¹ The missing word is probably "horn." Compare JAFL 30 : 206 (No. 48).

² Compare JAFL 30 : 205 (No. 36).

³ Very popular in the Sea Islands, South Carolina (MAFLS 16 : 152-153, No. 5).

⁴ Compare JAFL 30 : 203 (No. 23); 32 : 389 (No. 18); MAFLS 16 : 157 (No. 37).

⁵ See No. 7.